THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

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'NEXT YEAR FOR SURE', SAYS MUSK ON TESLA'S INDIA ENTRY

Tesla Inc chief executive Elon Musk on Friday said the US electric carmaker will make a foray into Indian market in 2021

ANNOUNCEMENT THROUGH TWITTER

Musk revealed his plan to bring Tesla to India next year through Twitter, tagging a post carrying the photograph of a T-shirt with the message "India wants Tesla". He was replying to a tweet from a Twitter handle called Tesla India Club, which told the billionaire, "Hey Elon, just thought we'd put this out here. We wait and hang on to hope wrt "hopefully soon"

COULD GEL WITH MODI'S E-CAR PUSH

- The announcement comes at a time when Prime Minister Narendra Modi is aggressively promoting the use of e-vehicles
- Musk was asked about India entry last year as well. "Would love to be there this year. If not, definitely next!" he said in March 2019
- India will be the next frontier for Tesla after its Chinese foray

495%

RALLY IN TESLA SHARES THIS YEAR, PUSHING MARKET VALUE TO $400 BN

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Gas turbine explodes at power plant, 15 injured

The 370-MW KPCL unit was to begin supplying 20 MW power to the grid from Friday; The site has been closed indefinitely

BOSKY KHANNA & MANJU SHETTAR @ Bengaluru

AN undetected oil leak caused a blast, leading to a fire, in the gas turbine chamber at the Yelahanka Gas Power Plant of the Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) in Yelahanka New Town around 3.30 am on Friday. Fifteen KPCL employees, 11 of them ground engineers and one executive engineer, sustained burns.

The power plant was to start generating 20-30 MW of power on Friday and supply to the grid. The capacity of the plant is 370 MW and Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) was executing the project for which General Electric (GE) is supplying compressed natural gas (CNG).

KPCL Director (Technical) C Venugopal informed *The New Indian Express* that the incident occurred when oil started to leak from the bearings in the gas turbine chamber. As it reached a flashpoint, it caught fire with a blast and flames coming out of the chamber. The fire and heat built up so much inside the gas turbine chamber that its door was thrown open by sheer pressure just as the engineers and the workers were rushing towards it to check what had happened. A massive flame burst out of the door, causing the unsuspecting engineers and workers to suffer burns.

Firefighters battle flames at the KPCL power plant, which witnessed a gas turbine blast, at Yelahanka in Bengaluru on Friday | EXPRESS

The injured were admitted to MS Ramaiah, Aster CMI and St John's Hospital in Bengaluru, and KPCL will bear the cost of their treatment. Two of them were reportedly discharged after treatment.

Venugopal explained that the project has been designed in such a way that in case of excessive heat, the gas supply to chamber number-2 and the unit is cut off automatically. Had this not happened, the damage would have been much more as the entire gas line would have exploded. P2

Trump tests +ve weeks before polls

Could impact re-election chances as he consistently underplayed Covid threat; would have to be in quarantine for at least two weeks, ahead of the Oct 15 televised debate with Biden

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

A fresh wave of uncertainty swept across the globe on Friday after US President Donald Trump revealed he and first lady Melania Trump had mild symptoms of Covid-19, roiling markets **(See graphic)** and casting a shadow over the November 3 presidential polls.

While the Trumps went into quarantine and the President continued to work from his family quarters in the White House, him being 74 and clinically obese put him at a higher risk of serious complications from a virus that has already infected 75 lakh citizens and killed over two lakh in the US. At present, the US has over 25 lakh active cases.

Before testing positive, he had travelled extensively for his re-election campaign, worrying officials about the full scale of the outbreak. While many White House and other senior officials were undergoing tests, the process of tracing the President's recent contacts was still on.

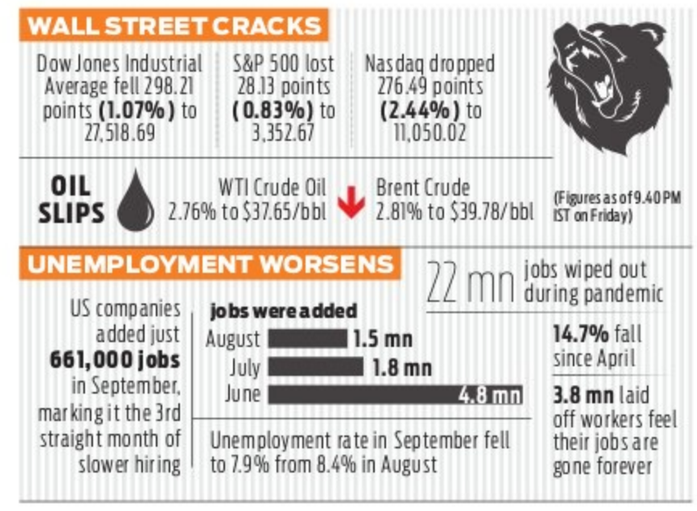
The infection could impact Trump's electoral chances, as he had spent much of the year downplaying the threat of the virus and avoided wearing masks for the longest time.

Biden, Pence test -ve

Vice President Mike Pence and Democrat presidential nominee Joe Biden tested negative for Covid. Under 25th Amendment, if the President in incapacitated medically, he has the option of temporarily transferring power to the Vice President, which he can reclaim whenever he can certify that he is fit for duty

During the first televised debate against his Democrat opponent Joe Biden on Wednesday morning IST, Trump had mocked him, saying: "I don't wear masks like him. Every time you see him, he's got a mask. He could be speaking 200 feet away from me, and he shows up with the biggest mask I've ever seen."

Biden, who spent 90 minutes on stage with Trump during the debate, and his wife Jill, tested negative. He is 77. P9


WALL STREET CRACKS
Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 298.21 points (1.07%) to 27,518.69
S&P 500 lost 28.13 points (0.83%) to 3,352.67
Nasdaq dropped 276.49 points (2.44%) to 11,050.02
OIL SLIPS
WTI Crude Oil 2.76% to $37.65/bbl
Brent Crude 2.81% to $39.78/bbl
(Figures as of 9.40 PM IST on Friday)
UNEMPLOYMENT WORSENS
22 mn jobs wiped out during pandemic
US companies added just 661,000 jobs in September, marking it the 3rd straight month of slower hiring
jobs were added
August 1.5 mn
July 1.8 mn
June 4.8 mn
Unemployment rate in September fell to 7.9% from 8.4% in August
14.7% fall since April
3.8 mn laid off workers feel their jobs are gone forever

US judge nixes H-1B visa ban

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi / Bengaluru

A US federal judge on Thursday nixed Donald Trump's suspension of non-immigrant visas including the coveted H-1B — the most sought-after visa by Indian IT professionals — saying the President does not have the power to tinker with immigration laws passed by Congress.

The judicial action comes as a major relief for scores of Indian IT professionals, who had voiced their opposition to the visa suspension. In the US, around six lakh people hold H-1B visas with Indians making up around 70%. Annually, around 85,000 Indians are issued the visa which gives them the right to work in the US.

Trump had issued an executive order in June 2020 suspending the entry of foreign nationals on H-1B, H-2B and J and L visas till December 31.

EXPRESS READ

Exports rise 5.27% in September

New Delhi: After contracting for six months, the country's exports grew by 5.27 per cent year-on-year to $27.4 billion in September, and trade deficit narrowed to $2.91 billion. P10

Bihar polls: Congress, allies decide on seats

Patna: The seat-sharing of the Mahagathbandhan for the Bihar elections was finalised on Friday. According to sources, Congress is contesting 70 seats. The Left parties are expected to field 30 candidates. P8

UNLOCK 5.0 FROM OCT 15

WHAT MAY OPEN OUTSIDE CONTAINMENT ZONES

- Cinema halls at **50%** seating capacity with SOPs
- Swimming pools for trained sportspersons with SOPs
- B2B units and entertainment parks
- Social gatherings of above **100** people allowed with conditions
- Lockdown till **Oct 31** in containment zones

Decision on schools re-opening to be taken in graded manner after Oct 15

P3

VICTIM'S VILLAGE SEALED; HATHRAS SP SUSPENDED

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

AS the fire of protest over the Hathras gang-rape and murder spread on Friday, the police clamped down further on the victim's family, cutting off all communication and turning the entire Boolgarhi village into a fortress. Later in the evening, an embattled Uttar Pradesh government suspended the district SP and four other policemen amid mounting criticism over the government's handling of the matter.

The family is allegedly holed up inside their home, with heavy police presence there, while all entries to the village have been completely sealed. No outsiders, including politicians and mediapersons, are being allowed to speak to the family and a tight security cordon has been laid around 1.5 km of the village's periphery.

A cousin of the 20-year-old Dalit girl, who managed to slip away and speak to media on Friday morning, alleged the police had taken away the mobile phones of all family members. He said the policemen were not allowing anybody to step out of the house. "Our family is being threatened. My uncle asked me to try to reach out to the media. He was assaulted by the DM yesterday and fell unconscious," the boy alleged.

Members of various organisations and political parties throng Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Friday to mark their protest against the brutal murder and alleged gang-rape of a young woman in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras | PARVEEN NEGI

Sub-Judicial Magistrate Prem Prakash denied charges of intimidation and confinement of the victim's family. On the restriction over entry of media and political leaders in the village, he said it was done not to hamper the SIT probe which is under way. Hathras Additional SP Prakash Kumar told reporters that no political representatives or media personnel will be allowed till SIT completes its probe.

Protests flared up across the country, with Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra attending a prayer meeting organised by the Valmiki community in Delhi and asserting that the party will continue to exert pressure on the government. Hundreds also gathered at Jantar Mantar in protest. P7

IMAGE DENTED. LET MEDIA MEET FAMILY: UMA BHARTI

UP police's "suspicious" action in the Hathras incident has dented the image of the BJP and the state government, said senior party leader Uma Bharti. She requested UP CM Yogi Adityanath to allow mediapersons and politicians to meet the victim's family

CHEAPER PRICES

Reforms open DK doors to Kerala land buyers

VINCENT D'SOUZA @ Mangaluru

THE amendments to the Land Reforms Act, which liberalise land ownership in Karnataka, has come as a blessing in disguise for many Keralites. Since many years now, there has been a steady rise in the number of people from Kerala purchasing land in the border district of Dakshina Kannada and an upward trend is expected in the coming days.

What draws Keralites to Dakshina Kannada is the fact that land is cheaper compared to their native state where it is quite high because of the huge foreign remittances. In the interiors of Kadaba, Belthangady, Bantwal and Puttur taluks, an acre of land costs about ₹8 lakh and many say if a Keralite sells 10 cents of land in his home state, he can buy an acre in Dakshina Kannada with the same money.

A majority of Keralites who buy land here convert it into rubber plantations, while there are also people who take up arecanut, coconut, banana plantations. Govinda Bhat, a progressive farmer from Manila in Bantwal taluk, which is close to the Kerala border, says the Keralites purchasing land in the district started about four decades ago when they first set up rubber plantations in Sullia taluk.

"Kochi Christians are experts in rubber cultivation and are hard working. That is how they are able to get good returns out of the barren land. Initially, they came to Sullia and now they have spread to other taluks like Belthangady, Puttur, Bantwal and Kadaba," Bhat said. P5

Most of the land they (Keralites) buy are the ones which are left barren. After buying, they turn them into plantations which will at least provide jobs to locals

Rashid Vittla, Social Worker

ALMANAC TODAY
Saturday 03/10/2020 • Year: Sarvari • Ayana : Dakshinayana • Ritu: Sharad
Masa: Adhika Ashwayuja • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Dwitheeya 4:44 am
Nakshatra: Revathi 7:52 am • Moon in kumba Rashi • Rahukaala: 09:00 am to 10:30am
Gulikakala: 06:00 am to 07:30 am • Yamaganda: 01:49 pm to 03:26 pm

WEATHER WATCH
MIN 20°C | MAX 27°C
FORECAST
Thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy

Sunrise 6.09 am
Sunset 6.08 pm
Moonrise 7.17 pm
Moonset 7.07 am

BMRCL builds road to divert traffic

Two original stretches along Bannerghatta Rd closed, Fire, Labour dept land used

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

FOR the first time, a new road has been constructed to facilitate Underground Corridor works on Metro Phase-II. Running for 600 metres on Bannerghatta Main Road, it was thrown open to the public a week ago. Two original stretches of the road, running up to 900 metres, have now been shut for traffic.

The Underground Corridor runs for 13.92 km between Dairy Circle and Nagawara on the 21-km Red Line (Nagawara-Gottigere) of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited. The underground portion will have 12 Metro stations.

A senior BMRCL official said the new road runs for 400 metres inside the Jayanagar Fire Station premises and another 200 metres on an empty land of the Labour department. "We completed the road last Friday (September 25) and opened it for traffic. It was only after ensuring the traffic could be diverted onto this stretch smoothly that on Saturday (September 26) we blocked two stretches on Bannerghatta Road. Both run in the Northern direction from Bannerghatta Road towards Dairy Circle, with one running for 600 metres and another 300 metres," he explained.

The new road constructed along Bannerghatta Road

While BMRCL has constructed decks (bridges on roads) on Cubbon Road, the upcoming Shivaji Nagar and Vellara Junction stations in the past for the UG network, it is the first time a complete road has been constructed, he added. "Unlike the usual roads in which traffic gets diverted from main roads, this is a high-quality, sturdy road which will can be used by the public for at least two-and-a-half years. After the original road is restored on completion of works, the new one will be shut and land returned to the Fire and Labour departments, he added.

At the spots where the blockade has been effected, a ramp, which is necessary to link any elevated station to an underground station, is being constructed.

"The ramp will connect the Jayanagar Metro station to the Dairy Circle Metro station. It will run at a height of 16 metres and a depth of 18 metres. Two Tunnel Boring Machines will be lowered at this point to start boring from this end of the corridor to Langford Road," he added.

BRIDGING THE GAP

AR TECH BRINGS GANDHI ALIVE WITH MUSIC, SPEECHES, DOCU-FILMS

Tourism Kannada & Culture Minister CT Ravi scans the code for an interactive experience on the life of Mahatma Gandhi in Bengaluru on Friday | VINOD KUMAR T

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

TECHNOLOGY brought alive Mahatma Gandhi 151 years after his birth, for a generation far removed from the realities of the freedom struggle. In a first, the public was treated to a better understanding of Gandhi's life through Augmented Reality (AR), that enables an interactive experience in a real-world environment.

It was an attempt at presenting Gandhi's ideals, principles and messages through experiential learning by Bengaluru-based technology enabler, 4Point2 Technologies. This unique homage was paid to the Father of the Nation on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti at Mahatma Gandhi Park on MG Road.

By harnessing AR, the company bridged the gap between the past and present to present the Mahatma through music, speeches, images, documentaries, movies and 3D projection. This experiential understanding made it helpful for the public, especially children. The exercise was enabled by downloading the 'MarkAR' app on smartphones, and will be available till October 10.

Kumar Shiva Kumar, founder chairman and managing director, 4point2 Technologies, said, "Gandhiji stood for peace, non-violence and self-reliance, which are relevant even today. He believed in action as progress, and that inspired us to provide this experiential learning about him and is our homage to the greatness of a man whose philosophy guides India even today."

Markar experience
1. Download MarkAR on Android smartphone
2. It will bring to life Gandhiji's messages, images, speeches and movies in AR
3. High-end smartphones equipped with a gyroscope can see Gandhiji and listen to him at any location in front of them by scanning the ground surface

Tourism, Kannada & Culture and Youth Empowerment Minister CT Ravi, said, "We are in an advanced technological era. This attempt to present Gandhiji's life through AR is a positive initiative as the public, especially children, will understand the great leader in an effective, interactive manner."

In a special message, 102-year-old freedom fighter HS Doreswamy said, "Gandhiji saw technology and machines as complementary to human effort. Gandhiji's dream of an Independent India was to make all Indians contribute towards nation-building, keeping aside personal ambitions and greed."

'Gandhi's rural model may have mitigated migrants' woes'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

If M K Gandhi's thoughts had been adopted, migrant workers would perhaps have not suffered what they did, Karnataka High Court Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka said on Friday.

He was speaking during a webinar on 'Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi in 2020' on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanthi, organised by the Karnataka Legal Services Authority, the High Court and Bengaluru Urban District Legal Services Committee in association with the Water Institute of Bangalore University.

Justice Oka touched on Gandhi's ideas about village development through self-sufficiency. "I am not an expert in the field of economy, but in the present-day context, when we see the serious issue of migrants, I personally feel the time has come for us to revisit the thought process adopted by Gandhi and give utmost importance to village industries. If we had implemented the thoughts of Gandhi in independent India, perhaps migrants would not have suffered what they did," Justice Oka said. He urged the attendees of the webinar which included students, judicial officers and others to revisit Gandhi's writings.

Talking about Gandhi's legal career, Justice Oka said that what he did in South Africa was a lesson for every member of the Bar. Gandhi was a civil rights activist, who advocated non-violence and Satyagraha. "This is a model for how a great service can be rendered," he said.

'Premises still too hot, extent of damage can't be assessed for now'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

KPCL Director (Technical) C Venugopal said it was an untoward accident and happened for the first time at the unit. The extent of damage cannot be assessed yet because the chambers and the unit are still very hot.

The incident occurred at the time of testing the open circuit and short circuit when the turbine was running at a speed of 3,000 revolutions per minute (RPM). The plan was to supply power from the unit in a phased manner, starting with 20-30 MW, from Friday, Venugopal said.

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) Managing Director V Manjula said the incident will have no impact on supply lines as it had not yet been connected to the grid.

Incidentally, no First Information Report (FIR) has been filed since it was an accidental fire, a senior police official said. A senior police officer from Yelahanka police station said Pulakeshi, the security manager of the premises, gave a statement to the police that KPCL engineers and staff were inspecting the plant when the incident occurred. They tried to douse the fire by alerting the fire tenders on the premises. Four fire tenders finally put out the blaze after two-and-a-half hours.

A blast caused a blaze on the KPCL premises in Yelahanka early on Friday morning. Firefighters took nearly four hours to douse the flames | EXPRESS

Engineers in charge of the project site said although the damage is not yet assessed, the site has been closed. "We do not know when it will be reopened," they said, indicating that the 30MW of power that was to be added to the grid will not happen any time soon. A detailed inquiry into the matter has been ordered to ascertain how the incident occurred as well as the extent of damage. Until then, work on the site has been stopped, delaying generation of electricity from the unit.

RESIDENTS JOLTED

Residents on Ananthapura Gate and surrounding areas on Doddaballapur Road panicked when they heard the blast and saw the fire. They were jolted out of bed due to the massive sound of the blast. "We thought there would be major power cuts. Power was cut off for a few minutes in the area only to check for damage, but was restored. As a precaution, we were instructed not to use heavy power-consuming appliances for a few hours," said S Samguni, Puttenahalli resident.

SMART CITY

Bengaluru to have more bicycle tracks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

FIVE kilometres of roads in Bengaluru will, in a month, get cycle tracks under the Area Based Development component of the Bengaluru Smart City project Special Commissioner (Estates) Hephsiba Rani Korlapati has said.

She told TNIE that construction on the roads identified for the project - Race Course Road, Chalukya Circle, Raj Bhavan Road, Minsk Square and T Chowdaiah Road - is underway, and that they are being developed under the TenderSURE.

One side of the road will be pedestrian-friendly, and will have a cycle track and carriageway. By the end of the year, about 45-50km of stretches of roads in Bengaluru will have cycle tracks. She said that the aim was to create cycle tracks in Central Bengaluru's ABD area and provide seamless connectivity for cyclists.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

03rd October : It's an Aquarian day, which is good for Aquarians, obviously! However, I have a great admiration for this sign's lively, intelligent and witty ways, so I think it's good for every one of us. Let's look at one thing we can all do today: we may try something new, something different, perhaps, an activity which we have always wanted to do, but never have, and which will expand our horizons in intriguing directions.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
The Moon's monthly passage through an ambitious region of your solar chart always brings a heightened concentration on career and worldly aspirations. All the signs are that today's activities should be less complicated than they often were in the past, which should be a relief.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
You're ready and willing to take on the responsibility for seeing that joint plans work out. In fact, the business like alignments in your chart are so strong that even love affairs fall under their sway, in a manner of speaking. In other words, you'll have to work to keep relationships on the line.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You're keen to do the right thing, and the ethical situation is looking interesting, to say the least. You'll probably find that at the root of all working relationships and obligations lies a general concern over standards. Other people may disagree, mind you.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
You've made some fine judgements, and a calculated risk could now pay off. The best purchases and investments are likely to combine beauty with tradition - antiques, for example. The most ideal romantic partners are those offering security in addition to passion.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
People at home are unlikely to make many demands. But, even if they only make one, they will force the issue with such persistence that you will have to be very strong indeed if you are to resist. It's all to do with a challenge from the Moon - but it won't last long.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
A stressful and challenging aspect can be turned to good advantage if you are determined to succeed - and unwilling to be put off by temporary distractions. It's excellent for all who are genuinely in search of new work, or who are happy to broaden their horizons.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
A financial risk may be a better bet than an emotional one, but only if, paradoxically, your goal is to maintain the status quo. Your main romantic consideration will be the desire for long-term stability, and all social arrangements must be placed on a formal footing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
It's a time for elegance, grace and traditional values. You may be strangely fascinated by romantic bad luck, but it is no use dwelling on memories or wallowing in regret. Instead, you should actively plan your future in the knowledge that, even if plans don't work out as intended, they might work out better than you hoped.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Mercury's delicate relationship with Neptune is just one aspect which teases you with nostalgia and sentiment. If you're in business, shuffling huge sums of cash or making large purchases, do be aware that such feelings will influence your financial decisions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
It is ironic that while today's lunar aspect gives you the advantage at home and in family affairs, it also makes you more sensitive. Then again, perhaps you will get what you want more easily if you are prepared to reveal your feelings. Partners' respect for you can only increase if you show how honest you are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Keep yourself to yourself, and don't let anyone probe into affairs which are yours and yours alone. Also, remember that at work, and in the public arena, it is your ability to get on with authority figures that is crucial. It's all a matter of reaching a suitable compromise.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
A discreet romantic connection may be given a formal dimension. Which is to say that you and a loved one will be happy to be left alone and free from prying eyes, even when you're out with the gang. If there's one point to remember though, it's to keep talking!

THE PHANTOM

HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

SAY, BUDDY, CAN YOU LOAN ME A FIFTY WHEN WE GET TO THE CLUBHOUSE?
THAT PROBABLY ISN'T A VERY GOOD IDEA, BUDDY
WHY NOT?
I WOULDN'T WANT TO EMBARRASS MY BEST FRIEND
YOU WOULD PROBABLY FEEL GUILTY IF YOU COULDN'T PAY ME BACK RIGHT AWAY
NOT NECESSARILY
WHACK

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE

Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

SUDOKU

					7	3	9	
			2			1		
	1					4	5	
	6		3					9
3		5	1		2	7		6
2					8		1	
	7	6					2	
		4			6			
	3	9	4					

HARD

- Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.
- Each sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

1	8	6	3	7	5	4	2	9
2	5	7	8	4	9	3	6	1
4	3	9	2	1	6	5	7	8
3	7	2	9	6	4	1	8	5
5	6	4	1	8	7	9	3	2
8	9	1	5	3	2	7	4	6
9	2	8	4	5	3	6	1	7
7	1	3	6	9	8	2	5	4
6	4	5	7	2	1	8	9	3

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RIHTD
ESBLS
KAQUWS
CRLOED

I really want to capture the view from our yard.
Our shrubs look great.
TO COMPLETE THE PAINTING OF THE GOLF COURSE'S THICKET, THE ARTIST TOOK ----

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: WAGER CHESS STORMY TYCOON
Answer: Betsy Ross is credited with making the first American flag. — "SEW" THE STORY GOES

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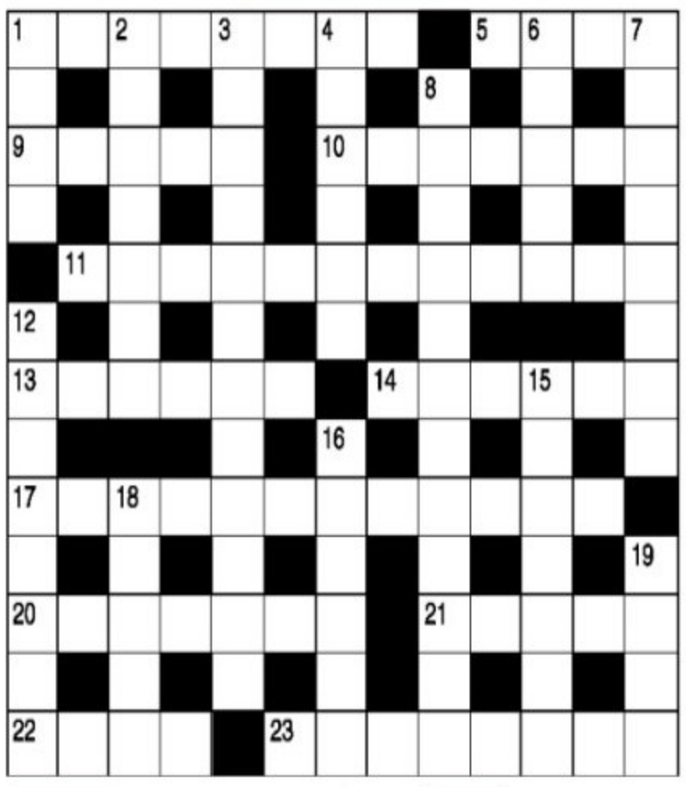
CROSS WORD



ACROSS
1 Forces in conflict, though \ connected with the law (8)
5 A high speed piece of film (4)
9 Wines blended for strength (5)
10 Cleaner who expects to get money without working (7)
11 Marksman who has a meteoric career? (8,4)
13 Make a mistake and run for it (6)
14 He may challenge you for a record after a slow start (6)
17 He cheats - by giving two cards instead of one? (6-6)
20 Concentrated in a nervous way (7)

DOWN
1 Refuse to eat quickly (4)
2 Western stock-holder (7)
3 Fresh start with ground in North America (12)
4 Gradually insert in a new list (6)
6 Illumination from a window (5)
7 Shows the harbour lights (8)
8 People in the services (12)
12 Telephone breakdown at the last moment? (8)
15 She eats her salad (7)
16 Modern-day means to escape arrival before Christmas (6)
18 Some of the Mounties may apply for release (5)
19 American editor briefly employed (4)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1Shortfall, 8 Oriel, 9 Fantail, 10 Africa, 11 Stolid, 12 Encroach, 15 Whistler, 18 Reeled, 20 Losers, 21 Antacid, 22 Clogs, 23 Horseplay.

Down: 2 Heart, 3 Rattle, 4 Fair deal, 5 Loafer, 6 Minimal, 7 Clear head, 11 Showplace, 13 Currants, 14 Winston, 16 Thrush, 17 Decamp, 19 Erica.

Gadag-based artist Savithri Paramagoudar has taken her art to social media to create Covid-19 awareness. Her subjects include ASHA workers on duty, importance of distancing and wearing masks

ON WAR FOOTING

Govt to set up Covid test labs via PPP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE State government has decided to set up Covid19 testing lab through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) for which the tender process will be completed in a week, Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar has said.

Following directions issued by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, measures are being taken to increase Covid-19 testing by three times, he said, and to support this intiative, tenders will be floated by the Departments of Health and Family Welfare and Medical Education to set up RT-PCR machines within two weeks.

K Sudhakar

Sudhakar, inaugurated the new Covid testing lab by Eurofins Clinical Genetics India (ECGI) in Whitefield, which is expected to conduct up to 5,000 tests per day.

"A total of 144 labs have been inaugurated in the State in the last six months. The state has achieved a milestone by conducting 50 lakh Covid-19 tests so far. The State government aims to increase this to 1.5 lakh per day, the minister said. The death rate of the state is under control, at 1.52%," said Sudhakar.

Barring schools, all open from Oct 15

Unlock 5.0: Social gatherings allowed; pools, cinema halls, entertainment parks to open

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Karnataka government has issued guidelines for Unlock 5.0, in keeping with norms released by the Centre, and cinema halls, entertainment parks and swimming pools will open from October 15 outside containment zones.

The decision on reopening of schools will be taken in a graded manner after October 15. The department of primary and secondary education is likely to take a decision on opening of schools and coaching institutions in consultation with the managements. Until then, online and distance learning will continue. Students can attend schools, but only with the written consent of parents. Attendance of the students must be enforced and the Department of School Education and Literacy will come out with Standard Operating Procedur.

Opening of colleges and institutions of higher learning will not be considered as yet, and online classes will continue. Only institutions with research scholars and postgraduate students in science and technology streams requiring laboratories, will be permitted to open from October 15.

Swimming pools will open for sportspersons with SOPs in place. Similarly, cinema halls with 50% seating capacity will also open, along with business to business establishments and entertainment parks.

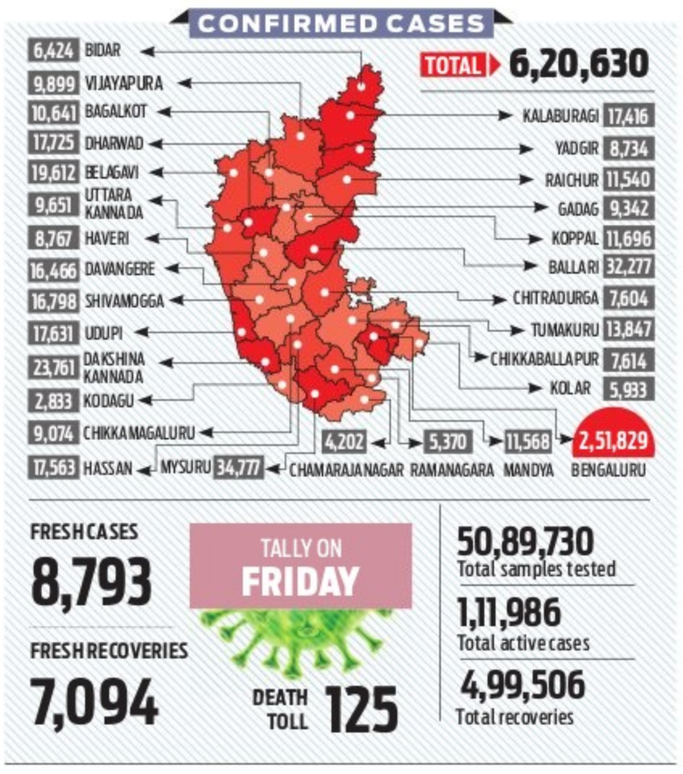
Social gatherings above 100 will be allowed outside containment zones after October 15. However, conditions will apply, like maximum of 50% crowd will be allowed in closed places, with a limit of 200 people. For areas in containment zones, the limit is 100 people.

The lockdown in containment zones will remain till October 31. There will be no restriction on interstate and intrastate travel.

Enforcement of rules

The 6-ft distancing norms is to be followed strictly. Those not wearing marks in public places will be fined Rs 1,000 in cities, and Rs 500 in other areas. Spitting in public will be a punishable offence.

In BBMP limits, those violating norms will be liable to be charged under Section 51-60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, and face legal action under Section 188 IPC.



TAKING A BREATHER

Health workers take a break while on duty at Chickpet to create awareness about Covid testing, which is free | SHRIRAM BN

Bagalkot breaches 10K-case mark

MAHESH M GOUDAR @Bagalkot

WITH over 800 Covid positive cases reported in the past week, Bagalkot breached the 10,000 case mark, and is the 17th district in the state to do so.

The district reported 336 cases, the highest so far, on Thursday. According to the health bulletin on Friday, fresh cases dropped to 68. The district tally now stands at 10,641 cases – 1,107 active cases, 9,425 cured and 109 dead.

In the past five days, Bagalkot's positivity rate touched 1.1%, against the state's rate of 1.5%, and the district has the third best fatality rate of 1%, compared to the state's fatality rate of 1.5%. Among positive cases reported in the past week, 12% are symptomatic and 9.1% are asymptomatic, according official figures on September 30.

"Every day, over 60% of fresh cases are reported from rural areas and the rest from towns and cities in the district. Bagalkot has one of the best recovery rate of 90.7% in the state," sources said.

Dr Ananth Desai, District Health Officer (DHO) told TNIE, "Cases are increasing because of increased testing. Over 2,000 samples are tested through RT-PCR and Rapid Antigen Test each day to break the chain. A record 336 cases were reported on Thursday because of technical issues and failure to report cases on the same day. Cases are gradually decreasing and the district has of the best recovery rates."

Cops collect mask fines

The district police said they collected Rs 23.55 lakh as fine for violating mask-wearing rules.

"The drive will continue until people follow norms. The intention of penalising is not to collect fines but to educate them. Police have worked round-the-clock to ensure the safety of people who should be responsible and wear masks and maintain social distance," SP Lokesh Jagalsar said.

Study: The earlier plasma is harvested, the better

RANJANI MADHAVAN AND IFFATH FATHIMA
@ Bengaluru

Karnataka State Reserve Police personnel participate in a cyclothon for plasma donation awareness

ALTHOUGH there is still uncertainty about the clinical benefits and role of convalescent plasma to treat Covid-19, new research suggests that the earlier plasma is harvested after recovery, the better. Antibodies start to disappear after three months of the onset of symptoms, states a release based on a study by the American Society of Hematology.

"A key question is, at what point is it most effective to collect donor plasma, based on the presence of antibodies that help fight the virus. Based on our findings, antibodies against the new coronavirus are not eternal," said Renée Bazin, PhD, of the Héma-Québec Blood Center (Canada) and author of the study published in the journal, Blood.

This small study, which drew from 282 plasma donors in Quebec, Canada, followed 15 adults (11 males and 4 females) who were diagnosed with and subsequently recovered from Covid-19. Participants donated their plasma between four and nine times each, with the first donation between 33 and 77 days after the onset of symptoms, and the last donation between 66 and 114 days. All 15 donors showed a decrease in antibodies at the same time -- around 88 days -- and half of the detectable antibodies decreased within 21 days afterward.

"The antibodies disappear rapidly, so people recovering from Covid-19 who want to donate blood plasma should not wait too long once they become eligible to donate," Bazin said.

She noted that nearly 7% of the original 282 donors did not have detectable antibodies at their first donation, and this proportion doubled when donors waited 11 to 12 weeks after symptom onset.

Dr U S Vishal Rao, Associate Dean, Centre for Academics and Research, HCG Cancer Hospital, said the study stands right. "We have observed that in most recovered patients, antibodies start to decline after three months. The best time to donate plasma is one month from the infection to within three months. We studied data of more than 350 patients and found not everyone has high antibody titers post recovery."

At HCG, plasma donors are put through a Vitros test, wherein if the value of antibody titre is 12 and above, it means the plasma is effective.

Dr Ranjit Mohan, consultant, Infectious Medicine, Manipal Hospitals, said the study's results are true for any infection – as time goes by, antibodies reduce as they are no longer required by the body, but do not completely disappear. For Covid, it is important that plasma is harvested at the appropriate time, he added.

"We must permit time to allow antibodies to rise to optimal levels, before they start reducing. This time window where antibody levels are good is between four-eight weeks post recovery. We also have to make sure the person has completely recovered, finished two weeks of quarantine post discharge, is in good health and has good antibody levels," Dr Mohan said.

EXPRESS READ

Vijayendra tests positive, in quarantine

Bengaluru: BJP Vice-President of Karnataka and Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa's B Y Vijayendra tested positive for Covid-19 on Friday. He tweeted that his test report had confirmed this, and he is under quarantine as per doctor's advice. He clarified he he had "no symptoms" and urged all those who had come in contact with him to take precautions and quarantine themselves. It may be recalled that Yediyurappa had tested positive in August along with Vijayendra's older sister Padmavathi, and they were admitted in Manipal Hospitals for about nine days, and were in home quarantine for about a week thereafter.

Irked over fine, bikers assault BBMP marshals

BENGALURU: Upset on being fined Rs 1,000 for not wearing a mask, two men assaulted BBMP marshals at KR Puram on Friday. They were later arrested.

Arun T (26) and his friend Jagadish G P (28), residents of Mulabagilu, work in a bar as suppliers. A police officer said around 11.30am, the pair came on a bike and BBMP marshals stopped them for not wearing masks. They were asked to pay a fine of Rs 1,000 each. When they refused, the marshals tried to seize the bike, and the two accused assaulted marshals.

Health inspector Nagaraj alerted KR Puram police about the incident and filed a complaint against the accused. The accused told the police that they did not carry any cash and were angry when they were forced to pay a huge fine.

BBMP recently hiked the fine amount to Rs 1,000 from Rs 200.ENS

NOTICE

Original Sale Deed Lost Notice is hereby given that the original sale deed, document no. 5425, BDA-1-05425-2005-06, CD no. BDAD96, dated 10.08.2005, in respect of property no. 452, 28th main, 12th cross, 1st phase, JP Nagar, Bangalore-78, has been lost/ misplaced. If found, please inform me at the following address for suitable reward:
Gita Narayan
by POA KR Dwarakanath,
85 6th main, 36th cross,
Jayanagar, Bangalore-41
Mobile-9972110162

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the general public that, my client is interested to purchase the below mentioned property from its absolute owner viz Mr. Raghavan T., S/o Kunger Theruvingal, residing at 355, R R House, Doddabommasandra, Bangalore, PAN No. ACGPT4820K, any person/s, firm/s, bank/s or financial institution, companies or individual etc. having any right, claim or interest in the schedule property may file his/her/their/its objection/s in writing along with original documents with the undersigned within 10 days from the date of this publication.
Any objection on and after 10 days shall not be entertained and my client shall proceed with the sale transaction with Mr. Raghavan .T presuming that there are no claims of anyone over the property.
SCHEDULE
Vacant site bearing number 268 in Vidyagiri Layout formed by the Bangalore City Employees Housing and Social Welfare Co-operative Society Ltd., in Survey Nos.48, 123, 128, 139, 141 and 142 of Nagarbhavi Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West: 44.5+46/2 feet and North to South: 30 feet, in all measuring 1357.5 square feet and bounded as follows:
East by : Road, West by : Private property, North by: Site No. 267, South by : Site No. 269.
S. Hemanth, Advocate
For HEMANTH & ASSOCIATES, Advocates
122, Margosa Road, Malleshwaram,
Bengaluru - 560003.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client has proposed to purchase schedule property from its owner/s **(1) Mrs. Sunitha Anand,** aged about 54 years, wife of Mr. D.S. Anand, residing at No.10/7, 28th Cross, 7th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore 560 082, **(2) Mr. D.S. Niranjan,** aged about 66 years, son of late D.K. Satyanarayan, **(3) Mr. D.N. Jeya Vikram,** aged about 45 years, and **(4) Mr. Devatha N. Vivek,** aged about 38 years, Sl.Nos. 3 and 4 are sons of Mr. D.S. Niranjan, Sl. No.2 to 4 are residing at No.263/34, 36th Cross, 8th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore 560 082. The said owners have represented to our client that they are the joint owners and that they have not mortgaged the Schedule property.
People at large and all the concerned, private individuals, government/ semi-government institutions / bodies / authorities, if has got any right, title, interest, or share in Schedule property or anybody who has objection for the aforesaid proposed transaction are herewith publicly informed to raise their objection/s in writing along with supportive documents to the undersigned within **FIFTEEN DAYS** from publication of this Public Notice. If the same are not received in writing along with supportive documents by the undersigned within **FIFTEEN DAYS** from publication of this public Notice, then it will be construed that the title to the said property is clear and that all such concerned have waived their rights and all such concerned shall be estopped from raising any objections thereafter and that we shall proceed thereafter further in the execution of the Sale Deed and all Such persons shall be estopped from raising any objections to such transaction thereinafter.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Municipal Corporation No.10, PID No. 62-132-10, formerly Site No.256, later No.256/10, formed by Bangalore Development Authority, **situated at 7th Cross, Jayanagar 1st Block extension, Bangalore,** admeasuring 441.07 square meters together with building standing thereon and bounded on the :
East : Road.
West : Property bearing Site No.257;
North : Property bearing Site No.253;
South : Road.
SAAN Law Associates, Advocates,
No.4 (10/2), Ground Floor, West Park Road, Kumara Park, Bangalore 560 001.
saanlawassociates@gmail.com
Place: Bangalore **Date:** 02/10/2020

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of **"KANNADA DESHADA PAKSHA".** The office of the Party is located at No.20, Bandarlahalli Village, Kamasamudram Hobli, Bangarpet Taluk, Kolar District, Karnataka-563129. This party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951 Names/Address of the office bearers of the Party are as follows:
President/Chairman: Arun Linga No.19, Bandarlahalli, Bangarpet Taluk, Kolar District, Karnataka-563129.
General Secretary/Secretary : Punith Kumar, #303, Opp Government Hospital, Doddanakundi, Bengaluru-37.
Treasurer: Mallikarjuna, No.52/6, Vinayaka Nagara, jigani, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District-560105.
If anyone has any objection to the registration of **"KANNADA DESHADA PAKSHA"** they may send their Objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-11011, within **30 days** of the Publication of this notice.
Notary Before Me:
K C GOWTHAMI, Advocate & Notary Public Reg No:21838. Bangalore-560040.
Bengaluru, Date: 19/09/2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the general public that, my client **1).Mrs.G.P.Nandini,** D/o: T.Narayana Rao, Aged about 36 Years and **2).Mr.Prashanth G.D.,** S/o: Mr.G.N.Durgoji Rao, Aged about 46 Years, both are residing at No.10, 3rd 'A' Main Road, Papu Cottage, Yediyur, Bangalore-560004, have lost the **"Original Sale deed 28-05-1975, registered on 29-05-1975 executed by Mr.V.Krishnamurthy and others in favour of Mrs.B.A.Sathyavathi and the document is registered as No.767/1975-76 at Pages 32 to 36 in Volume No. 298 of Book-I in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Basavanagudi, Bangalore" nearby Jayanagar 4th Block, Bangalore,** while going to their office. They have lodged a Police Complaint on 01-10-2020 with Crime Branch, Bengaluru City Police, in that behalf and got the acknowledgement.
The above said original document pertains to the property bearing Site No.10, Sy.No.32, P.I.D.No.59-149-10, situated at Papu Cottage, Tata Silk Farm, Kanakapura Road Extension, now Krishnamurthy Layout, Yediyur, Ward No.59, New Ward No.167, Bangalore, measuring East to West 30 Feet and North to South 45 Feet, measuring in all 1350 Square Feet and bounded on the East by Site No.11, West by Site No.9, North by Road and South by Site Nos.16 & 17.
The General Public are hereby informed that if any person holding/trace out the above said Original Sale deed may inform to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of this notice.
If any person/s or any bank or any financial institution having any charge, lien, right, title or interest over the above said property should inform the undersigned with the relevant documentary evidence in person within **15 days** from the date of publication of this notice failing which the title of the above said property will be presumed to be clear and marketable and my client will go further in respect of the said property.
Venkatramana R. Hegde, Advocate
No.231, II Floor, S.C. Road,
Bengaluru-560009.
(O) 080-22202917, (M) 94483 04191
Bangalore, Date: 02-10-2020

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
ARM Branch– II,
2nd Floor, Circle Office, Spencer Towers, No.86, M G Road, Bengaluru-560001, Ph: 080-25593070, 25588002
e-mail : cb6298@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

1. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged /charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ARM Branch II , Bangalore of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and " Whatever there is" on **05/11/2020** from 10.30 A.M. to 11.30 A.M, for recovery of **Rs.1,38,40,232/-** (Rupees one crore thirty eight lakhs forty thousand two hundred and thirty two only) as on 31.08.2020, together with future interest, expenses and costs etc till realisation due to ARM Branch II, Bangalore of Canara Bank from **M/s.Rajendra Naidu and D Venkatesh.**
The reserve price will be **Rs.107.50 Lakhs** and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs.10,75,000/-.** The Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before **03/11/2020 at 5.00pm.**
Details and full description of the property: All that part and parcel of property at site no.12, Khatha no.47/1 formed in Sy.no.47/1 to an extent of 30 guntas of converted land vide orders of the Deputy Commissioner Bangalore District ALN(N)/CR/118/11-12 situated at Karivobhanahally, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk measuring East to West 55 feet and North to South 40 feet in all measuring 2200 sq.ft. with building thereon now comes under the limits of BBMP Rajarajeshwari Nagar Zone, presently at 11th A cross, Balaji Nagar, Thigalarapalya Main Road, Bangalore 560058 bounded on the East by Property belonging to Rame Gowda, West by 20 feet Road, North by Site no.11 and South by Site no.13.
2. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged /charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ARM Branch II , Bangalore of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and " Whatever there is" on **05/11/2020,** from 10.30 A.M. to 11.30 A.M, for recovery of **Rs.1,47,08,195/-** (Rupees one crore forty seven lakhs eight thousand one hundred and ninety five only) as on 31.08.2020, together with future interest, expenses and costs etc till realisation due to ARM Branch II, Bangalore of Canara Bank from **M/s.Haritha and D Venkatesh.**
The reserve price will be **Rs.81.25 Lakhs** and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs.8,12,500/-.** The Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before **03/11/2020 at 5.00pm.**
Details and full description of the property: All that part and parcel of property at site no.10, Khatha no.47/1 formed in the Sy.no.47/1 to an extent of 30 guntas of converted land vide orders of the Deputy Commissioner Bangalore District ALN(N)/CR/118/11-12 situated at Karivobhanahally, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk measuring East to West 55 feet and North to South 40 feet in all measuring 2200 sq.ft. now comes under the limits of BBMP Rajarajeshwari Nagar Zone, presently at 11th A cross, Balaji Nagar, Thigalarapalya Main Road, Bangalore 560058 bounded on the East by Property belonging to Rame Gowda, West by 20 feet public Road, North by Site no.9 and South by Site no.11.
3. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged /charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ARM Branch II , Bangalore of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and " Whatever there is" on **05/11/2020**, from 10.30 A.M. to 11.30 A.M, for recovery of **Rs.1,21,36,910/-** (Rupees One Crore twenty one lakhs thirty six thousand nine hundred and ten only) together with interest and costs as stated in RC no.54/19 dated 14/12/2018 in OA no.537/2017 due to ARM Branch II, Bangalore of Canara Bank with further interest as applicable from M/s Ramesh, Syed Monsure and Umesh Gurjar.
The reserve price will be **Rs.36.90 Lakhs** (Rupees thirty six lakhs ninety thousand only) and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs.3,69,000/-** (Rupees three lakhs sixty nine thousand only). The Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before **03/11/2020 at 5.00pm.**
Details and full description of the property : All that piece and parcel of eastern portion of residential site bearing no.29 formed in converted land bearing Sy.no.20/17 (Old sy.no.20) situated near Gottigere lake, Eagle Ridge Resort Layout, Begur-Koppa Road, Kammanahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru-560068 having Municipal no.2901/29 measuring East:69.58 feet, West 66.49 feet, North 28.33 feet and South 28.33 feet and bounded on the East by Site no.28/B, West by Remaining western portion of the same site, North by Road and South by Road.
4. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged /charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ARM Branch II , Bangalore of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and " Whatever there is" on **05/11/2020,** from 10.30 A.M. to 11.30 A.M, for recovery of **Rs.72,53,588.58** together with costs, expenses and future interest at 13.90% (including 2% penal interest) compounded monthly rests from the date of filing of OA i.e.10/04/2018 till its realization due to ARM Branch II, Bangalore of Canara Bank jointly, severally and personally from **Sri.Prashanth M and Sri.J Shankar Naidu** in terms of RC no.273/2019 dated 31.05.2019 in OA no.1067/2018.
The reserve price will be **Rs.40.00 Lakhs** and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs.4,00,000/-.** The Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before **03/11/2020 at 5.00 pm.**
Details and full description of the property: All that piece and parcel of the factory shed constructed in Khatha no.401, House list no.36 (old) New no.408 present BBMP no.94, situated at Kamakshipalya village, Sane guruvanahalli Dhakle, Bangalore North Taluk between NHCS Layout and Ashtagrama Layout presently at 2nd Main, Kamakshipalya, Bangalore having PID no.18-41-94 within ward no.18 of Kamakshipalya ward of BBMP together with an existing AC sheet roof building of one square mearuring East to West 35 feet and North to south 35 feet bounded on the East by Property bearing house list no.11 (Old), West by Road, North by house list no.35 (old) and South by House list bearing Old no.37.
5. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged /charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ARM Branch II , Bangalore of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and " Whatever there is" on **05/11/2020,** from 10.30 A.M. to 11.30 A.M, for recovery of Rs.1,29,51,831/- (Rupees One Crore twenty nine lakhs fifty one thousand eight hundred and thirty one only) together with interest and costs as stated in RC no.53/19 dated 14/12/2018 in OA no.538/2017 due to ARM Branch II, Bangalore of Canara Bank with further interest as applicable from **M/s. Syed Monsure, Ramesh and Umesh Gurjar.**
The reserve price will be **Rs.35.10 Lakhs** and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs.3,51,000/-.** The Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before **03/11/2020 at 5.00pm.**
Details and full description of the property: All that piece and parcel of western portion of residential site bearing no.29 formed in converted land bearing Sy.no.20/17 (Old sy.no.20) situated near Gottigere lake, Eagle Ridge Resort Layout, Begur-Koppa Road, Kammanahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru-560068 having new Municipal no.2901/29 measuring East:66.49 feet, West 63.41 feet, North 28.33 feet and South 28.33 feet and bounded on the East by remaining portion of Site no.28/B, West by Road, North by Road and South by Road.

EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited by way of DD favouring Authorised officer, Canara Bank, ARM Branch II, Bangalore OR through online (RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer) to credit the account number 6298296000001, Canara Bank, ARM Branch II, Bangalore RTGS/NEFT CODE CNRB0006298 on or before **03/11/2020 - 5.00pm.**
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.canarabank.com/english/announcements/sale-notice/karnataka/ provided on the Secured Creditors' Website i.e www.canarabank.com. or may contact Chief Manager, ARM Branch II Bangalore, Canara Bank, **Ph. No. 9483544116, 080-25588002**, during office hours on any working day.
Place: Bangalore Sd/-
Date: 30.09.2020 Authorised Officer

State Agriculture Minister BC Patil said the farm bills will help to develop agriculture and agro-based industries in the state and students graduating from agriculture universities will be able to take up farming due to amendments to the Land Reforms Act

BJP LOOKS TO OUTDO KR PET PERFORMANCE IN SIRA BYPOLL

Party appoints eight in-charges to cater to caste and local cadre equations

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

BY deploying eight in-charges to manage the by-election to the Sira Assembly constituency, the BJP has made no secret of its priority. Having never won in Sira, the party hopes to continue its expansion streak by not just winning Sira but securing the constituency — that has always chosen candidates between Congress and JDS — for elections to come. The eight in-charges for Sira — two of whom are Deputy Chief Ministers — have been picked carefully to balance out the caste and cadre appeasement strategies.

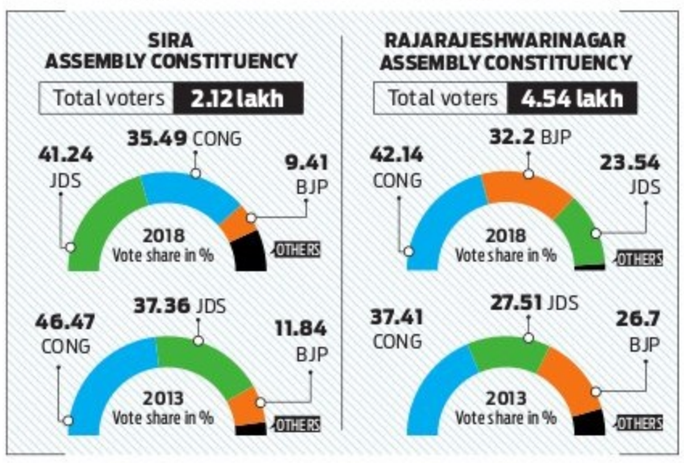
SC leaders DCM Govind Karjol, State General Secretary N Ravi Kumar, MP A Narayanaswamy, MLA Poornima Srinivas — a prominent voice of the Kadugolla community, Thippeswamy, OBC leader MP PC Mohan, Vokkaliga leader DCM Dr C N Ashwath Narayan and Lingayat face state party vice-president B Y Vijayendra have been carefully picked for an individualistic approach to voters — dominantly Vokkaliga and Golla (SC) communities in the constituency. "There is a good trend in favour of the BJP. We being in government is an advantage, but more importantly, the party has never won in Sira. We have already visited more than 250 booths and all we are asking for is one chance for BJP," said Ravi Kumar. The BJP has so far played the cards right, by setting up a Kadugolla development board to appeal to the community and leaning towards a Vokkaliga candidate to draw support of the dominant community.

In the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, Congress had polled 63,490 votes, while BJP managed 42,465. But in the 2019 LS polls, the BJP polled 79,503 votes, while Congress garnered 67,937 in Sira that falls under the Chitradurga Parliamentary constituency. The shift in loyalties in the 2019 polls also had to do with JDS and Congress compelling their cadres — who have been political rivals for decades — to work together for a common candidate.

Much like how it pulled off KR Pet, the BJP has planned an elaborate door-to-door, page level, ward level, corner level, block-level inverted triangle approach to the Sira by-poll. But unlike KR Pete, the party does not face a problem of local cadre in Sira, given that it has four MLAs from neighbouring seats and a constantly rising ground presence. Of the 11 assembly constituencies in Tumakuru, the BJP has four seats, the Congress three and JDS three. The BJP is banking on being in the government, promise of development, a new face as candidate and the newbies among the JDS and Congress cadre to fuel its election campaign.

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa offers floral tributes to a portrait of Mahtama Gandhi at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Friday | EXPRESS

> We being in government is an advantage, but more importantly, the party has never won in Sira. We have already visited more than 250 booths and all we are asking for is one chance for BJP
>
> N Ravi Kumar, BJP State General Secretary



JDS shortlists three names for RR Nagar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Janata Dal (Secular) on Friday shortlisted three names as its probables for the Rajarajeshwari Nagar assembly by-poll, scheduled to be held on November 3. In a meeting held at Legislature Party Chief H D Kumaraswamy's residence, the party shorlisted the names of its local workers and block functionaries, instead of the earlier choice of G H Ramachandra.

Bengaluru party president Prakash, RR Nagar block president Betteswamy Gowda and Jnanabharati unit chief Krishnamurthy have been shortlisted. National president and party patriarch H D Deve Gowda will decide on the candidate from the three shortlisted names.

"We have decided to give tickets to loyal party workers. In the last two elections, the JDS had received 50,000 to 60,000 votes. People are tired of both the national parties and we look at it as an opportunity for our party" said Appajigowda, JDS MLC.

THAT BURNING FEELING

Youth Congress members hold a candlelight vigil seeking justice for the 19-year-old girl, who was gangraped and tortured leading to her death in Hathras, Uttar Pradesh, in Bengaluru on Friday | MEGHANA SASTRY

SIRA BATTLE

JDS may pick wife of ex-MLA over son

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

THE JDS, whose MLA B Sathyanarayana's death necessitated the by-election at the Sira constituency, may field his wife, and not the son, to contest the poll.

The party was earlier leaning towards Sathyanarayana's son Sathya Prakash, who was a taluk panchayat president. But it is now learnt that the party top leaders are thinking of a "better candidate" and may pick his wife Ammajamma.

The party is cautious as it performed miserably and lost all the 15 by-polls in the state in the last round, though its candidates had held three of those constituencies at KR Pete in Mandya, Hunsur in Mysuru and Mahalakshmi Layout in Bengaluru. The general assessment among the leaders is that the party could have performed better if it had picked stronger candidates.

The party has decided to pick Ammajamma over Sathya Prakash as the assumption is that she carries a greater sympathy factor that can be a better vote puller than the son's pluses of being acceptable and being better known in the constituency.

The JDS core group has suggested that the party needs to be extra cautious, considering that the by-polls largely favour the ruling party, even though statistically the maximum votes polled by the BJP in the last three elections here are less than 18,000. Traditionally, this seat has seen a neck-and-neck fight between the Congress and JDS, and the BJP standing a a poor third. But nothing can be ruled out this time as the State Government will use all its might to win the poll, JDS leaders said. The party should also consider who the candidates from the other parties are and choose prudently, they explained. Whether Sathya Prakash himself or his mother is picked, he will work hard to win the election as it is his own grieving mother who will be the candidate, they said.

A senior JDS leader said that the party used the same formula in the Gulbarga South constituency where the then JDS state president H D Kumaraswamy fielded Aruna Patil Revoor, wife of party MLA Chandrashekar Patil Revoor who passed away in 2010.

'Centre didn't do justice to Angadi's family'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Belagavi

THE central government did not try to bring the mortal remains of Belagavi MP Suresh Angadi, who was the Union Minister of State for Railways, to Belagavi, though the city has a military base to give him a fitting farewell with full state honours. It was injustice meted out to Angadi's family, alleged KPCC president D K Shivkumar, here on Friday.

Shivakumar, who was here to inaugurate the Congress Bhavan, said, "Angadi's family has come out in the open to talk about the politics that was played out two months prior to his death."

UP, a junge raj: Siddu

Slamming the Uttar Pradesh government for preventing Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra from reaching Hathraws, where a Dalit girl was raped and tortured leading to her death, Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah said that Uttar Pradesh has turned into a jungle raj, where the police rule prevails.

KPCC president DK Shivakumar at Belagavi Airport on Friday | EXPRESS

BJP launches campaign in Sira, attacks Siddu

BJP state president Nalin Kumar Kateel speaks at a function in Tumakuru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Tumakuru

THE BJP officially launched its campaign for the Sira Assembly by-poll with its state president Nalin Kumar Kateel inaugurating a rally at Balenahalli on Friday. He termed Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah as anti-Hindu for reportedly withdrawing cases against SDPI workers, who allegedly attacked Hindus, when he was the chief minister.

Mysuru MP Pratap Simha said that Siddaramaiah favoured Tipu Jayanti celebrations that affected the sentiments of Hindus and incited communal violence. "He took the side of Tipu to appease the minorities," he alleged. Defeated candidates of 2018 and 2013 assembly polls, S R Gowda and Bevinahalli K Manjunath, hinted that the ticket should be given to either of them.

Since there was a talk of the party giving the ticket to former JDS leader Rajesh Gowda, son of former Chitradurga MP from Congress C P Mudalagiriappa, the local leaders reportedly expressed their displeasure with Kateel.

RAVI TO TAKE A CALL ON RESIGNING AFTER BJP GENERAL SECRETARIES MEET ON OCT 5

Chikkamagaluru: Tourism Minister C T Ravi, who was recently appointed BJP national general secretary, said here on Friday that he will first discuss with Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa whether he should resign from the ministry. Also, Ravi said, he will take the final call after discussing the issue with central leaders and after the BJP general secretaries meeting in Delhi on October 5. "Some leaders and party workers want me to continue as minister. However, if I have to choose between the ministerial and party post, I would pick the latter. I never expected to be elevated to a national-level post," he said. Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister K S Eshwarappa said in Shivamogga that he welcomed Ravi's decision to resign from the minister's post. Citing his own example, Eshwarappa said that said he had resigned as Power Minister after he was appointed the state president of the party. This matter is nothing new to the party, the minister added. ENS

DVS accuses oppn parties of misleading farmers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

EVEN as farmers in Karnataka and other parts of the country continue to protest against the farm Bills, Union Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister D V Sadananda Gowda on Friday accused the Congress and other opposition parties of "deliberately misleading" farmers and "instigating" them to protest. There is no proposal before the government to do away with Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) as claimed by opposition parties, the minister said.

Speaking to mediapersons in Bengaluru, Gowda said that the opposition parties have failed to find any flaws in the bills and are trying to spread misinformation among farmers stating that the MSP will be withdrawn and APMC markets will be closed. The changes will liberate farmers from all restrictions and they will be free to sell their produce in APMC markets or outside so that they can get a better price for their produce.

Trying to allay concern among farmers, the minister said the government is fully committed to protecting farmers' interests. Educated members in farmer families must go through all details of the farm bills and also inform other farmers so that they do not become victims of misinformation campaign by opposition parties that have a political agenda to oppose the changes, he added.

Textile industry takes the mother of all beatings, but recovery in sight

COVIDONOMICS PART-11

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

INDIA'S textile industry, the second biggest employment generator after agriculture, has been dealt a devastating and crippling blow by the Covid-19 pandemic. With a 2 per cent contribution to the country's GDP, it accounted for 15 per cent of export earnings for 2019 fiscal.

It has around 4.5 crore employed workers, including 35.22 lakh in the handloom sector, across the country. Anywhere between 30 and 40 per cent of jobs have vanished over the last six months and the tragic part is that over 80 per cent of the employees in the sector are women.

The coronavirus has ravaged the businesses and lives of every single person involved in the industry was the unanimous opinion of manufacturers, retailers and allied associations in the textile and garment industry in Karnataka.

Honorary Secretary, Clothing Manufacturers' Association of India, Naseer Humayun said that it will take a long time to recover, and added that nearly six lakh were employed in Karnataka in the garment manufacturing segment alone. "Orders for exports to Europe and the United States came down by 50 per cent as many outlets abroad were closed. Along with Noida, Jaipur and Delhi, Bengaluru is a big manufacturing hub for garments. Peenya and Hosur Road are its major centres," he said.

The clothing business locally took an even bigger beating. "With hardly any business done by showrooms here, orders were not placed at all," he added. "All this has resulted in job losses of up to 40 per cent, with 80-90 per cent of them being women," Humayun said.

Praveen Bafna of Bafna Clothing Corporation at K R Market, whose family has been in this business for 79 years, said, "This has been the worst impact the business has seen in its history. After the first lockdown was lifted, we had to start from the scratch from May 3. From a peak of manufacturing 6,000 items of men's wear a day till the last week of March, we were down to zero in April. We slowly started by manufacturing 1,000 pieces a day and it has now reached 4,000 pieces. It is picking up and if we still get even 40-50 per cent of sales of last year, I will consider it a good year."

Workers at a garment factory in Bengaluru before the Covid-19 pandemic

Not just sales, the payment recovery from retailers has suffered enormously as this is a credit-oriented business, he added.

His firm employs 800 staffers and its garments are sent across the country. "We have not asked anyone to leave, but many women staffers have voluntarily opted not to come in the interest of their own health and pressure from their families," he added.

That even half the sales of 2019 would be considered a big boost was a point seconded by a big retailer in Bengaluru (requesting anonymity) who runs a popular chain of stores. "Everyone is affected, particularly retailers. Even if we get 50% of last year's business now, I will consider it a good situation this year," he said.

Trade activist and ex-president of Karnataka Hosiery and Garment Association, Sajjan Raj Mehta, feels that the government can help the industry by coming out with a unified GST structure for all categories of clothing. "The idea behind GST was a common tax. But in our industry, garments costing up to Rs 999 are levied 5% and those above attract 12 per cent. If a common slab of 5 per cent is applied, it will give us a big boost," he said.

Humayun hoped that the government chips in at least to help the employees, if not the employers. "Because of the Minimum Wage Act in place, we have not effected pay cuts. But our employees are all registered under the Department of Factory and Boilers and the government can come forward to help them out in some way," he added.

The industry is cautiously optimistic. With Dasara, Deepavali, Christmas and New Year around the corner and manufacturing picking up with most shops opening, there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel.

Andhra Pradesh irrigation officials continued to discharge over 2.7 lakh cusecs of surplus flood water from Prakasam Barrage as the inflows increased on Friday

No confusion... EPS, OPS to announce CM candidate on Oct 7: TN minister

MLAs thrown into a tizzy after AIADMK's Twitter handle announces meeting with leaders

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Madurai

EQUATING the relationship between Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami and Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam as that of Rama and Lakshmana brothers, Revenue Minister RB Udhayakumar ruled out any confusion among the AIADMK partymen regarding the Chief Minister candidate for the upcoming Assembly elections and said that the two leaders would jointly announce the candidate on October 7.

Addressing media persons after paying floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Gandhi Museum in Madurai on Friday, Udhayakumar said that the 'Rama-Lakshmana' brothers have been remarkable in their respective roles, benefiting both the party and the administration. "While Pannerselvam won people's heart by reviving the rights to conduct Jallikattu and by mitigating the havoc wreaked by cyclone Vardha, Palaniswami is known as the Chief Minister of the laymen. The efficient leadership and effective implementation of schemes have helped them gain the trust of the people," he said.

Artists paint pro-AIADMK slogans on walls in Chennai on Friday | P JAWAHAR

Refuting opposition parties' criticism on cancelling Gram Sabha meetings, the minister said that the decision was taken as a precautionary measure to tackle Covid-19 and had nothing to do with politics.

Commenting on the incident of police manhandling Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during Hathras march, Udhayakumar said, "Every individual is equal in front of the law. As leaders, we should set example by obeying the rules."

Meanhile, many MLAs were confused after a message, summoning AIADMK MLAs to party headquarters on October 6, appeared on the official Twitter handle of the party for a brief time on Friday.

Many MLAs and senior functionaries told *TNIE* that they did not receive any such message, and AIADMK headquarters also denied sending any invitation. However, the tweet posted by @AIADMKOfficial remained there for over three hours. Later it was deleted without giving any explanation.

ORGANIC FUTURE

FARMERS TAKE THE LEAD, LAUNCH OWN BRAND

K SHIVA KUMAR @ Mysuru

AT a time when anxiety is writ large on the faces of farmers over corporates and private players entering the farm market, a group of farmers have come together to launch their own 'Namdu' (Our Own) brand of produce and store. Farm produce will be sold at prices fixed by the grower himself.

This statewide initiative by Amruth Bhoomi Foundation (which was started by late farmer leader Prof M D Nanjunda Swamy), Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and some organic farmers, will have its won supply and market chain to protect the interests of farmers while, at the same time, making high quality organic produce available at affordable prices.

To start with, the Hasiru Sena, Raitha Sangha, Amruth Bhoomi and some organic farmers have opened a stall at Krishika Samaj in Chamarajnagar town on Friday, where farm produce are sold under one roof.

The store was conceived on Mahatma Gandhi's Gram Swaraj idea and many farmers, including from Hanur and Male Mahadeshwara Hills region, will find a better market.

Although, about 100 organic farmers have come under the umbrella for now, the movement will be expanded to rope in at least 5,000 farmers in each district in about two years' time, the farmers say.

To begin with, some organic farmers have opened a stall at Krishika Samaj in Chamarajanagar | EXPRESS

Heggavadipura Shivakumar, who grows organic fruits including bananas and guavas, says he has seen demand rise in recent years as people prefer organic foods. "We employ labourers to de-weed and harvest in a traditional manner and use Jeevamrutha organic manure which improves the quality of the produce. Having our own market and brand will put an end to exploitation by middlemen", he said.

Chukki Nanjundaswamy of Amruth Bhoomi said it is necessary that farmers come up with their own initiatives as governments are in a hurry to take away farmers' land, bring in corporates and privatise markets.

The farmers hinted that the prices will be 5-10% more than HOPCOMS and 80% of the proceeds will be deposited in their accounts. Successful organic farmers will also conduct training, field trials and give tips on cost-effective farming methods to others.

Naval officer dies after glider plunges into the sea

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS
@ Karwar

A person, said to be a naval officer, died when the paramotor glider he was riding, plunged into the sea. His trainer was injured and hospitalised.

The incident occurred on Friday evening when the glider fell into the sea after it took off from Ravindranath Tagore beach.

The deceased has been identified as naval officer Madhusudhan Reddy, based in Kadamba Naval Base. According to police, he took off from Karwar beach along with a trainer.

The mishap occurred due to sudden change in weather and the velocity of the wind.

According to an eyewitness, Hussain, he saw the paramotor glider falling and raised an alarm. "I was just observing the glider when it was in the air. Suddenly, it started twirling like a frail kite. I raised an alarm to alert people," he said.

The rider, whose legs were strapped to the paraglider's sling, died of asphyxiation. However, there has been no reaction from the naval authorities.

> I was just observing the glider when it was in the air. Suddenly, it started twirling like a frail kite. I raised an alarm
>
> Eyewitness account

Farmers take high-interest loans to send kids to college

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA
@Bengaluru

Hit by the lockdown, the families of many students at the University of Agriculture Sciences Bagalkot are borrowing money at exorbitant interest rates just to put their children through college. Rakshit (name changed), a second year degree student at the University of Horticultural Sciences Bagalkot, hails from Kadur in Chikkamgalur district. "I chose agricultural sciences because its the most affordable if college education courses, and is mostly taught in government colleges," Rakshit Rao said. He plana to write competitive examinations after graduating.

However, twice this year, he found his college degree slipping out of his grasp.

But hit by the pandemic, Rakshit's father, an agricultural worker, has borrowed Rs 20,000 from the local money lender at the rate of 5% interest per month, payable until the principal is repaid.

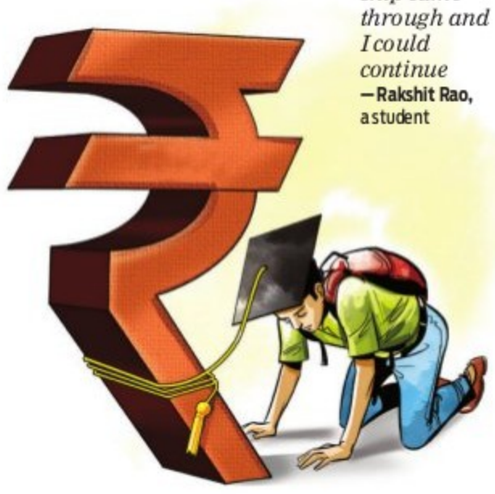
While students were hoping for a silver lining from the lockdown in the form of reduced semester fee as the money collected for tour, convocation, sports, and career development for the previous year was unspent, the university hiked the fee by over Rs 2,700 per semester despite the Education Department's directions against increasing the fee due to the pandemic. He now has to pay Rs 19,305 by October 5.

Another student Anand Kumar (name changed), said his parents were also considering such loans. "We requested the Dean and the Vice Chancellor to reduce the fees, but there was no favourable response," he told *TNIE*.

His parents, who are agricultural labourers, took a huge financial hit during the lockdown when there was no work. Vice-Chancellor Indiresh K M told *TNIE* that the decision to increase the fees was taken unanimously by the state level coordination committee for six universities. Each year, there is at least a 5% increase, he said, which is why this year too it was increased in a similar manner. "How are we to run the university? The government gives money to the institute only for research and education depends on student fees," Indiresh said.

> *The scholarship amount we get in January is just enough to cover fees of one semester and hostel expenses*
> —Anand Kumar, a student

> *I decided to quit in January because I couldn't pay the previous semester's fee. But then the scholarship came through and I could continue*
> —Rakshit Rao, a student



Dakshina Kannada's locals turning away from farming: Bhat

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

BHAT feels that Keralites' hold on agricultural land in Dakshina Kannada will increase in all likelihood as the locals are increasingly turning away from agriculture since they find it not so profitable. Over 60 per cent of landholders in the district are small farmers. A farmer having two acres of areca plantation can earn just Rs 60,000 a year now when arecanut prices have soared to Rs 350-400 per kg.

Ismail Nelyadi, an advocate, said besides cheap land, restrictions on land holdings and tough labour laws in Kerala are driving Keralites to Karnataka. "With the restrictions on land holding removed in Karnataka now, we are expecting more purchase of land by them," he said.

Rashid Vittla, a social worker, feels that Keralites buying land has helped the locals in a way. "Most of the land they buy are the ones which are left barren. After buying, they turn them into plantations which will at least provide jobs to locals," he pointed out.

'FMCG cluster to create 5 lakh jobs'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE State Government will hold talks with stakeholders to set up a Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) industries cluster in Hubballi-Dharwad which can generate around five lakh jobs. Industries Minister Jagadish Shettar said the cluster is being actively pursued by the government to attract investments and generate employment in North Karnataka.

On Friday, the FMCG Vision Group submitted its report, 'Transform Hubballi-Dharwad: Vision 2020-2025,' to the minister. The government plans to develop it as a FMCG hub for South India. It will generate turnover in excess of Rs 25,000 crore, the minister said.

In the last budget, the State Government had announced setting-up of the cluster in the district and the Vision Group was constituted to look into the opportunities available and submit a report. The vision group document outlines the need to give impetus for growth in North-Karnataka, according to a statement from the Industries Department.

Ullas Kamat, chairman of the Vision Group for FMCG cluster and Joint Managing Director of Jyothy Labs Ltd, said the cluster development will be proposed in three phases, with each phase seeing investment of Rs 2,500 crore from 50 FMCG companies. Each phase will generate 50,000 jobs, with 80 per cent of them reserved for domiciles, and 50 per cent for women, Kamath stated.

CCB allowed to conduct polygraph test on Viren

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

CCB sleuths have received permission from the court to do a polygraph test on Viren Khanna, who is one of the accused in the Sandalwood drug menace case. During the investigation, Khanna refused to give any information to the police and his gadgets were seized.

A senior police officer said, "We had appealed to the court to grant permission to get Khanna to undergo a polygraph test as he was not cooperating with the investigation and he did not reveal the passwords for his gadgets. On Friday, the court gave permission and Khanna will be taken to the forensic lab to probe his involvement in drug peddling."

Meanwhile, there were reports that a hair sample of the accused, sent for analysis, was returned and that it would affect the investigation.

Joint Commissioner (Crime) Sandeep Patil said, "It is only a small technical problem and has been resolved. The blood and urine samples are already with the forensic lab. This is the first time that a hair sample test is being done to get additional evidence. We already have evidence in the form of technical data, eyewitness accounts and mobile phone analysis. This hair sample was only additional evidence."

> We had appealed to the court to grant permission to get Khanna to undergo a polygraph test as he was not cooperating with the investigation and he did not reveal the passwords for his gadgets
>
> Senior police officer

KARNATAKA STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATION
Branch Office : 86/2,Hospet Road, Ballari - 02. ☎ 08392-242106, 242719.

CORRIGENDUM

In our earlier Paper Notification dated 23-9-2020 published in The New Indian Express for the property at Sl. No. 3(e) the measurements of the Open Plot No. 8 was mentioned as 30 Ft. x 40 Ft. by Typographical error. The same may be read as 40 Ft. x 60 Ft.

All other Terms and Conditions of the of the paper notification dated 23-9-2020 remain unaltered.

Place : Ballari
Date : 1-10-2020

Sd/- Authorised Officer
KSFC, Ballari.

QuoteExpress DON'T WATCH THE CLOCK; DO WHAT IT DOES. KEEP GOING
SAM LEVENSON

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED.
(A. Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL Dam Division., (Irrigation department) Narayanpur-585219 Tq: Shorapur, Dist: Yadgir. State: Karnataka PH/Fax No-08444-229615

IFT..NO.: KBJNL/DDN/PB/SCP/TSP/TND/2020-21/1116 Date: 28/09/2020

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಭಾಗ್ಯ ಜಲ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ ಆಲಮಟ್ಟಿ/ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಆಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ವಿಭಾಗ ನಾರಾಯಣಪೂರ ಅಡಿ 2019–2020 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಿಷೇಶ ಘಟಕ ಯೋಜನೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಗಿರಿಜನ ಉಪಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಒಟ್ಟು 08 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ Single Cover System ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು Qualification criteria ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವಂತೆ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ 115/ 2020–21 ದಿನಾಂಕ 28–09–2020 ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊಹರಾದ ಶೇಕಡಾವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ http://proc.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/ines.seam ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ವಿವರ	ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೇಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ
1)	ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	03.10.2020 ರಿಂದ 14.10.2020 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
2)	ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ತರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	18.10.2020 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ

ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಹೊಂದಿದ ನೋದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/ines.seam ನಲ್ಲಿ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬುಲೆಟಿನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಆಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ವಿಭಾಗ ನಾರಾಯಣಪೂರ ಇವರಿಂದ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಆಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ವಿಭಾಗ, ನಾರಾಯಣಪೂರ

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public are hereby informed that I **Smt. Gullamma W/o. Late Chikkamuniyappa**, aged about 77 years, residing at No.267/1, Amruthahalli, Sahakaranagar, Bangalore-560092. I have lost the document bearing Sy.406 measuring 3 acres 01 guntas and 0.17 guntas Kharab situated at Adavinagenahalli Village, Kodigena halli Hobli, Madugiri Taluk, Tumkur District. Sy.No.407 measuring 1 acre 34 guntas, Sy No.317 measuring 2 acres 18 guntas. Sy No.342 measuring 4 acres 17 guntas, Sy No. 379 measuring 2 acres 19 guntas all the properties situated at Adavinagenahalli Village, Kodigenehalli Hobli, Madugiri Taluk, Tumkur District. and the Khatha No.253, Assessment No. 253/1 & 253/2 measuring East to West 39 feet, North to South 72 feet and constructed area of 14 Square, the above said properties are purchased through absolute sale deed registered at Office of the **Sub-Registar, Madhugiri, vide Book No.1, document No.MDG-1-00082-2007-08 stored in C.D.No.MDGD26**, regarding this I have lodged a complaint before the Amruthahalli police Station, if found the above said document kindly send to the above said address. **7 days file objections.**

Sd/-Gullamma

PUBLIC NOTICE

That our client intends to purchase the property described in the SCHEDULE hereunder, from its owner **Sri. Mohan Kumar S N**. Any person/s/bank/society / firm or any other body having any right, title, interest, claim or charge over the schedule mentioned property or any part thereof is hereby notified to lodge their objections/ claims if any in writing with documentary proof regarding their manner of right, title, interest or charge over the schedule mentioned property with the office of the undersigned within ten days (10 days) from date of publication of this notice, after which period our client shall proceed to purchase the schedule mentioned property, on the basis that there are no objections / claims of whatsoever nature.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of property being vacant residential Site No.119, BBMP BBMP Khatha/PID No.82/84/119, in the layout formed by Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore, situated at BTM Layout 6th Stage, 1st Phase, Bangalore, presently comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP, Bangalore, measuring East to West 9.15 Metres and North to South 12.20 Meters, in all measuring 111.63 Square Metres, and bounded on the:
East by : Site No.118,
West by : Site No.120,
North by: Site No.126 and 125,
South by : Road.

Vivekananda M W
ADVOCATE
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CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **HARPREET SINGH**, Aged about 26 years, S/o. Ashis Kumar Nayak, Permanent resident of Pathuria Village, Patharia, Chapda, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal - 721 154, have changed my name from **SANDIP KUMAR NAYAK** to **HARPREET SINGH.** Vide affidavit dated 01-10-2020 sworn before Advocate & Notary N.K. Lakshmana, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **HAV OMINDER SINGH,** Residing at Village - Bass (Khudana) Post Office - Akoda, District - Mahendergarh, Haryana - PIN:123029, have changed my Minor Daughter's name from **KALAPANA** to **KALPANA** vide affidavit dated 01/10/2020 sworn before Notary G.B.Turamari, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MANJULA .A,** Daughter of **Arasaiah B.B.,** aged about 34 years, residing at # 11, 13th Cross, 60 Feet Road, Near 89 D Last Bus Stop, J.C. Nagar, Kurubarahalli, Bengaluru North, Mahalakshmipuram Layout, Bangalore - 560 086, have changed my name from **MANJULA .A,** Daughter of **Arasaiah B.V.** to **MANJULA .A,** Daughter of **Arasaiah B.B.** Vide affidavit dated 29-07-2020 sworn before Advocate & Notary K. Venkata, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **JC-670554N,** SUB A.James, residing at No. 57/3, Bethel Cottage, Kaveri Nagar, BEML Nagar, Kolar Gold Fields, Bangarpet, Kolar-563115, have changed my Daughter's name from **(OLD NAME) J.JENIFER** to **(NEW NAME) J.JENIFFER** vide affidavit Dated 01/10/20 sworn before Notary G.Rajendra, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ABDULLAH** S/o **Haji Usman Gani,** R/at No.60, 5th Cross, Amar/ Dubai Layout, D J Halli, Bengaluru-560045 have changed my name to **ABDULLAH ANSARI** vide affidavit dated: 26/09/2020 Before Notary **C.Sharada** Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Sarika Nirmala Prasad** (Old Name), W/o. Mahesh Prasad, aged about 40 years, R/at # 763, 31st Cross, 26th Main, Poornaprajna Layout, Uttarahalli Hobli, Subramanyapura, Bangalore-560061 have changed name from **SARIKA NIRMALA PRASAD** (Old Name) to **SUMA .H** (New Name) for all purpose Vide affidavit dated 01-10-2020 sworn before notary, Jayappa A., Bangalore.

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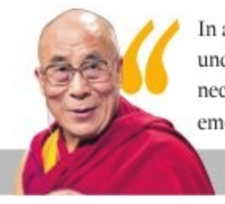
CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MOHAMMED KASHIF VELLORE RAHMAN,** S/o. **ATA UR RAHMAN VIRINJIPURAM RAHMAN,** R/at. No.806, 1st Stage, 5th Cross, 5th Block, HBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar Post, Bengaluru -560043. Have changed my name from **MOHAMMED KASHIF VELLORE RAHMAN** to **MOHAMMED KASHIF VIRINJIPURAM RAHMAN,** vide affidavit dated 23.09.2020 sworn before notary Prakash.C, Bengaluru-560079.

EDITORIAL



"In a materialistically oriented world there isn't much understanding of the workings of the mind. What's necessary is to recognise the trouble caused by negative emotions and that we can develop antidotes to them

Dalai Lama

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

STIMULUS AND THE NEED TO AVOID A DOUBLE-DIP RECESSION

The government sent out mixed signals to markets and investors this week. First came Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's assurances of fiscal stimulus-2, though she remained zip-lipped about its arrival time. Suffice to say, government expenditure will increase to spur economic activity. But the ministry also maintained that its market borrowings won't be revised upwards, implying that additional spending this fiscal is unlikely. Or, chances are, as we see it now, existing allocations could be redirected to aid growth-enhancing projects and as officials indicated, tax collections could pick up pace, allowing departments to spend a bit more. But this is unconvincing.

The budgeted tax revenue target for FY21 at ₹16.3 lakh crore is already ambitious and based on a projected nominal GDP growth of 10%. However, recent developments and trends confirm that a reduction in tax collections including disinvestment proceeds is inevitable, with various estimates pegging the decline at 10-20%. In fact, revenue reduction, without even considering additional spending, will increase the fiscal deficit, which already hit a seven-year high at 4.6% in FY20. Moreover, the government's primary source of funds—household savings including small firms—is sliding amid salary cuts and job losses. This is double whammy for the government as not only income (tax revenue) falls, but also debt sources are drying up.

Perhaps this is one reason Sitharaman chose not to deviate from the FY21 borrowing plan of ₹12 lakh crore. Whether this is sufficient for an economy that's recovering with high-frequency indicators showing promise is unclear. Unlike advanced economies, India's stimulus had elements of fiscal timidity with government spending at 2-3% of GDP, while economists want at least 5%. Put simply, a fatigued vehicle facing uphill needs force. One could use an accelerator (tax revenue), but an external push (government spending) gives much-needed thrust. The danger in waiting to intervene until the vehicle reaches a certain height is, it could all come crashing before you know it. For an economy, that phenomenon is called a double-dip recession, which must be avoided at all costs.

ENSURING VACCINE FOR COVID REACHES ALL

As the race for a Covid-19 vaccine intensifies, discussions on who will get the first shot have also begun. An immunisation strategy needs to be put in place before the rush begins. Who will get priority? Is it safe for the elderly and vulnerable to get it first as this is after all a novel virus and a novel vaccine? Will it be subsidised or even distributed at no cost by the government? The last question specifically arises in the wake of a tweet by Adar Poonawalla, the CEO of the Serum Institute of India, arguably the world's largest vaccine maker (by volume), about how ₹80,000 crore would be required to vaccinate all Indians over a period of one year and whether the government would be able to bear the cost.

A tentative vaccination plan, chalked out by a panel headed by Dr V K Paul, NITI Aayog's health wing member, and co-chaired by Rajesh Bhushan, Union health secretary, has been sent to the PMO for approval. This group has suggested a free immunisation drive based on antibody test reports so that those already exposed to the virus—20-30% of the population in metros according to surveys—will be eliminated from the first few consignments of vaccination; it can thus be devoted to the high-risk population that includes frontline workers, people over 50 years and those with comorbidities. As per estimates, around 40 crore people may need priority vaccination.

There are two parts to this: those who will get priority and those who will receive it for free. But there seems to be a mixing up of these two aspects. Being on the priority list must not automatically imply getting it for free since there are people in the high-risk categories who will be able to afford the vaccine. Cost-wise, it may be billed at ₹650 per person, at least till more than one vaccine is in the fray. Understandably, the frontline workers must get it at no cost. Those below the poverty line must also be given it for free, while people who are economically comfortable must be willing to surrender the freebie to enable the vial to efficiently reach all sections of society.

The Agricultural Produce Market Committees have traders and commission agents as members ... No wonder, there is resistance to change

'HEALTHY' AT 92: LORD LINLITHGOW AND THE APMC ACTS

BIBEK DEBROY

Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the PM. Views are personal

AMIT BANDRE

Ninety two years is unusually long life expectancy, but not for policy. Lord Linlithgow was Governor General and Viceroy from 1936 to 1943. It was an unremarkable stint and there was no reason for Indians to remember him fondly. As far as I know, there is nothing named after Lord Linlithgow anywhere. The only exception is Alwar, where there is Hope Circus, named after Lord Linlithgow, though it uses his personal name of Victor Alexander John Hope.

But Lord Linlithgow did leave other legacies. I have written about his legacy of LBAs and LBKs elsewhere. Let me state that briefly. A Royal Commission on Agriculture was set up in 1926 and Linlithgow was its Chairman. Among several recommendations, it said poor quality Indian cattle must be improved by importing better quality foreign bulls and using them to impregnate inferior Indian cows. These government posts of LBAs and LBKs were created in 1936, after Linlithgow became Governor General. LBAs (Linlithgow's Bull Assistants) imported foreign bulls and maintained them. LBKs (Linlithgow's Bull Keepers) ensured impregnation occurred on time. It took many years to abolish these posts. However, Lord Linlithgow left another legacy that still abides, 92 years after the Royal Commission's Report.

You could trace it back to Berar and Cotton, but APMC Acts, in the way we know them, go back to the Famine Commission of 1928. To quote, "It is only in Berar that the constitution of markets is regulated by special legislation and that the management is in the hands of elected committees. ... The most hopeful solution of the cultivator's marketing difficulties seems to lie in the improvement of communications and the establishment of regulated markets, and we recommend for the consideration of other provinces, the establishment of regulated markets on the Berar system. ... The Bombay Act is, however, definitely limited to cotton markets and the bulk of the transactions in Berar markets is also in that crop. We consider that the system can conveniently be extended to other crops. ... We consider that the management of these markets should be vested in a market committee. This committee should contain adequate representation of the actual cultivators in the areas served by the market and, if their interests are not adequately safeguarded, an official of the agricultural department might well be nominated to the committee to protect them. It is undesirable that any licensed broker should be eligible for election to the committee as a representative of the cultivator."

There was a bit more to Berar and cotton. The first regulated market was for cotton, in Karanja in 1886. The primary motive behind the Berar Cotton and Grain Markets Act of 1897 wasn't to address the farmer's marketing problems, as the Famine Commission suggested, but to ensure cheap supplies of cotton to textile mills in England. Farmers were indirectly taxed and the revenue collected wasn't necessarily used to develop infrastructure. That history showed doing something in the name of the farmer wasn't quite the same as doing something for the farmer and such morals of history rarely change. Nevertheless, after the Royal Commission, several provinces did pass such laws (there was a model APMC Bill in 1931)—Central Provinces, Madras, Baroda, Bombay, Punjab, Mysore. This changed after Independence. Many people have written extensively on Indian agriculture and its marketing issues. I recall a study commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, known as the Millennium Study on "State of the Indian Farmer". Despite the National Commission on Agriculture in 1976 and the National Commission on Farmers in 2004, I haven't quite seen anything like the Millennium Study, though except academics, most people seem to have forgotten about it. In 2004, it was published in a massive 27 volume set. One entire volume (Vol.7) was on agricultural marketing and was authored by S S Acharya.

> Doesn't the presence of traders and commission agents in such committees imply regulatory capture? The 2014-15 Economic Survey stated it thus: "There is a perception that the positions in the market committee (at the state level) ... are occupied by the politically influential. They enjoy a cosy relationship with the licensed commission agents who wield power by exercising monopoly power within the notified area, at times by forming cartels"

Whether one uses those Acharya figures, or figures from someone else, a clutch of states (Andhra, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, MP, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, TN, UP and West Bengal) passed APMC Acts in the period from the second half of the 1960s to first half of the 1980s. (A few pre-dated this period, but new legislation was required because of state reorganisation.) This was a dubious period in India's economic policy-making and it took decades to repeal or amend statutes passed then. For instance, I think there will be a strong correlation between items reserved for SSI (small-scale industry) and the number of APMC regulated markets and I am not being deliberately flippant. The Acharya figures are 146 regulated markets in 1945 and 7,161 in 2001. The 1991-92 Economic Survey told us how wonderful APMC Acts were. The 2014-15 Economic Survey told us how disastrous they were. That's the way it should be. Times change. Acharya's book mentioned APMC market committees have traders and commission agents as members. Wasn't that what the Famine Commission warned against? I checked out Azadpur Mandi, not at the turn of the millennium, but today. And yes, it does have traders and commission agents as members. Doesn't that imply regulatory capture? The 2014-15 Economic Survey stated it in the following way: "There is a perception that the positions in the market committee (at the state level) and the market board—which supervises the market committee—are occupied by the politically influential. They enjoy a cosy relationship with the licensed commission agents who wield power by exercising monopoly power within the notified area, at times by forming cartels." No wonder, there is resistance to change.

(Tweets @bibekdebroy)

MISSION ANNAPURNA, NEW FARM LAWS CAN TRANSFORM INDIAN AGRI

HINDOL SENGUPTA

Vice President & Head of Research at Invest India, GoI's national investment promotion agency

For several years in the earlier part of the decade, I watched with care as friends of mine diligently built a business in aggregating the best farm produce from around the country and selling it to urban customers, especially specialised restaurants and hotels.

The market, at that time, was still nascent, only starting to discover the sheer wealth and variety of Indian agriculture (did you know that at one point, India grew nearly one hundred thousand varieties of rice?). It is around 2013 that I learnt, through watching my friends build this company, that while Arunachal Pradesh grew fine kiwi fruit (almost all organic), the kiwis consumed in the markets of Delhi and Mumbai actually come from New Zealand. It is not quality that kept India from selling its quality kiwis at home or even abroad, but a combination of legal and infrastructural hurdles.

Recently, when I travelled to Arunachal Pradesh to speak on entrepreneurship, I was delighted to find that the state now also produces some great kiwi wine. The finest Indian coffee now comes from the Araku valley in the Eastern Ghats. There is now, across India, a revolution in organic agriculture spreading, with more customers at home and abroad who want Indian produce.

But this spread and distribution needed a freer ecosystem and that is what the new agricultural laws provide. By removing hurdles to where agrarian ware can be sold, they have paved the path of a greater aggregation, processing and participation of organised private capital in agriculture.

If this helps in greater processing of food, better certification (especially in organic cultivation) and more nimble storage, there is a possibility that India could well become one of the world's main food producing and exporting nations.

India has both the climate and the surplus, and its farm productivity graph can only climb higher. It has variety and a natural inclination to produce many kinds of food, not only in traditional areas of demand, but also in steeply growing areas like vegan food. Apart from the liberalisation of agriculture just announced, there are two other government schemes that are of distinct value in what I call Mission Annapurna. These are the Geographical Indications (GI) and the One District One Product schemes. GI is focused on unique products from various locations in India tagged to their geography for uniqueness (for instance Darjeeling tea can only come from Darjeeling). One District One Product is about making each district in the country known for a single marquee product that delivers revenues and growth to the region.

> India can be the world's most successful provider of quality, organic food. The new reforms in agriculture, along with ideas like One District One Product, Geographical Indication and a brimming start-up ecosystem can make it happen

In many cases, both GI and ODOP products are agrarian in nature. They are also, often, export-worthy. A range of nifty start-ups are building processing systems and supply chains to deliver world-class food products using the internet as a marketing and customer acquisition channel to customers around India. They can serve customers around the world as well.

In essence, there are three value propositions to be made here—Indian agrarian products must show that they are unique, have the advantage of distinctive terroir, and have high quality (low chemical and pesticide use).

Of course, many of the products will be sold as commodity, but there is a lot of value to be unlocked in pitching products as specially grown or produced in a particular part of India, in a specific manner, for which they can command a premium price.

This will happen in two stages, which are likely to overlap. First, many more millions of Indians will discover the variety and quality of food that their country has to offer. Next, they will be sold across the world using the firepower of the companies, both big and small, that are bound to now enter the agriculture sector in significant numbers.

The combination of the new regulations unshackling agriculture sales and the coming together of GI and ODOP is, therefore, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to utterly transform the face of Indian agriculture and the life of the average Indian farmer.

Old inefficiencies and anomalies can now be restricted, even better, eradicated. There is scope to merge farms, and aggregate produce and products for better market value. The chasm between India's private businesses and its agrarian hinterlands can now be bridged, not in fits and starts, but in a more comprehensive manner. Already, a host of start-ups are filling crucial gaps in everything from weather forecasting to crop collection supply chains. This is set to grow.

The Goddess Annapurna, in Indian mythology, is the divine entity who brings the bounty of food. Without her, there is so much of the largesse of nature missing from life. A fateful combination of policymaking is likely to bring a new bounty from and to Indian farms.

(hindol.opinion@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Police report lacks credibility

In yet another low for the UP government, the police trashed the sexual assault claim in the Hathras rape case, saying they found no traces of sperm in the samples taken from the victim's body. The report lacks credibility as there was an inordinate delay in conducting the medical examination. The way authorities are twisting the case to save their skins sets a dangerous precedent.

NJ Ravi Chander, Bengaluru

Shameful behaviour by cops

It is shocking that the UP police have not learnt any lesson from the notorious Unnao rape and Dubey encounter cases. The claim that the Hathras victim was not raped is shameful. This just makes it seem like the police are in cahoots with the rapists and goons.

Bijumon P N, Idukki

Law and order in UP

The Yogi government is making genuine efforts to improve law and order in Uttar Pradesh. Despite this, crimes like the Hathras rape continue to happen. This shows that the UP cops lack the professional resolve required to improve the situation in a state notorious for its neta-criminal nexus.

Hemanth Bhide, Mangaluru

Casteism and crime

This is with reference to *Hathras rape and the continuing curse of caste* (Oct 2). Rape is indeed a blight on humanity and in India, it is aggravated by casteism. It is high time society comes forward to do away with the evils of caste. We will need sincere leaders sans political motives to get rid of this problem.

A M Chakravarty, Hyderabad

Not all mistimed

This is with reference to *Farm legislations, intent and a map of mistiming* (Oct 2). The author is right in saying the farm legislations are ill-timed. But we cannot say the same about all government actions. Had the special status of J&K not been revoked then, it would have become impossible to do so for years. And the lockdown had to be imposed then.

Dharmarajan A K, Thalassery

Migrant workers' importance

This is with reference to *Living in the shadow of urban development* (Oct 2). The article highlights the importance of migrant labourers and how they are linked with the economy. Framing policies to improve their living standards is a must.

V K S Krishnan, Kumbakonam

Protects employee rights

The SC striking down a notification issued by the Gujarat government that favoured industries and allowed them to enforce a 12-hour working day is welcome. This intervention restores the rights of the employees to humane working conditions and overtime wages. Hopefully, this verdict will be an eye-opener to governments and industries.

Ravi Mannethu, Pullad

SC's bold directive

The apex court's bold directive is a step in the right direction. Though the government's intention of trying to jump-start the economy seems to be good, it cannot be at the cost of labourers' lives and rights. Workers should have the right to proper overtime wages without being subjected to forced labour.

R Pichumani, Kumbakonam

Theatre move suicidal

The Centre's suggestion to open cinema theatres from October 15 at 50% capacity is suicidal as such a closed facility is akin to a viral culture medium in present circumstances. Movies can be screened in open air as in the past.

Dr George Jacob, Kochi

No need for perfect vaccine

A vaccine with an efficacy rate of about 70-80% would be sufficient to apply the brakes on the rapid spread of Covid-19. Its synergistic effect would provide us the critical buffering period to continue research and improve the potency of the vaccine while reducing side effects. It was similarly done in the case of polio. To look for a 'perfect' vaccine to combat the coronavirus right now would hence be irrational.

Biju C Mathew, Thiruvananthapuram

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
Neither we nor the media are allowed to meet the (Hathras) victim's family and neither are they allowed to come out, but the family members are beaten up and brutalised.

Mahua Moitra @MahuaMoitra
Denying Hathras family access to lawyers, activists & press. Hypocrisy of blaming covid while unlocking gyms & movie theatres.

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
An FIR should be filed against Hathras DM, SP so that they can reveal the truth...

Derek O'Brien pushed to ground during scuffle with cops ● Yogi says those who think of harming self respect of women will be destroyed ● Protests across India

TMC leaders manhandled by UP cops near Hathras

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

A day after Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi were stopped and allegedly manhandled by the Uttar Pradesh Police, Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien along with some party leaders were on Friday restrained by the cops on their way to Hathras's Boolgarhi village to meet the family of 20-year-old gangrape and murder victim. The district police did not let the TMC leaders enter the village on the pretext of Section 144 in force in the area.

The TMC delegation, led by Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien, was stopped outside the victim's village and a scuffle between the leaders and the cops ensued during which O'Brien was pushed and he fell on the ground. MP from Barasat Kakoli Ghosh-Dastidar was also allegedly roughed up by the police. The TMC also alleged that its leader Pratima Mondal was manhandled and pushed by a senior district official. The TMC delegation was asked to stay behind the barricades, which were put up at the entry point of the village. O'Brien had urged the Hathras Police to let Ghosh-Dastidar visit the aggrieved family members, but the police turned down his request.

"I am sick and tired of UP," O'Brien said. "It is an atrocity against Dalits and women by the government. Can't I even meet and comfort the family members of the victim?" asked Ghosh-Dastidar.

He said: "We have filed a police complaint against the Hathras Sadar SDM with a request that it be turned into an FIR. We will also write to the Lok Sabha speaker on the matter." In her complaint, Mandal wrote, "When we tried to meet the family this morning, SDM (Prem Prakash) Meena pushed me and tried to forcibly stop me. We have come from West Bengal to offer our condolences to the family of the victim. In democracy to stop a public representative from meeting a victim's family is the murder of democracy."

CM Yogi Adityanath said his government was committed to women's safety and those who even think of harming their self-respect will face total destruction. "Total destruction of those who even think of harming the self-respect of women in UP is inevitable," Adityanath said in a tweet in Hindi.

Such people will get exemplary punishment that would be remembered by future generations, he said. "They will get such a punishment that it will set an example," he said, adding that "this is our resolve and promise.

SP activists protest in Lucknow on Friday against the Hathras rape-murder case | PTI

SP, 4 COPS SUSPENDED AFTER SIT FINDS LAXITY

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

THE Yogi Adityanath government in UP on Friday evening suspended five police officers, including Hathras Superintendent of Police (SP) Vikrant Vir, over their handling of the rape and murder of 20-year-old Dalit woman.

Shamli SP Vineet Jaiswal was transferred to Hathras to replace the suspended SP with the directive to take charge with immediate effect. However, no action was taken against district magistrate Praveen Kumar Laxkar so far.

The other four officials to have faced the action included Deputy SP in the rank of CO Ram Shabad, inspector Dinesh Kumar Verma, sub-inspector Jagveer Singh and head constable Mahesh Pal.

The chief minister cracked the whip on police officials based on the primary report furnished to him by three-member special investigation team (SIT) for laxity in handling the case of the Dalit woman.

The sources claimed that the SIT, besides finding slackness on the part of the police officials, had also recommended Polygraphic and Narco test of all the cops involved in handling the case, all the accused and also the family of the victim.

The SIT stayed in Boolgarhi village for over 48 hours and recorded statements of over 100 people and also met cops. It submitted a preliminary report with its recommendations on Friday.

The SIT was formed on the CM's instructions on September 30. It was headed by state home secretary Bhagwan Swarup, inspector general Chandraprakash and PAC commandant, Poonam. The team was instructed to submit a report within seven days.

SPEAK OUT

The ones who even think of harming the respect and dignity of the mothers and sisters of UP will be destroyed. They will face consequences of the kind that will set an example to others
Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh CM

We can do nothing if the Opposition is attacking (the govt). They have no issue and are raking up such small issues intermittently. They are doing nothing in the public interest
Ajeet Singh Pal, UP minister

Have no words to condemn the barbaric & shameful incident at Hathras involving a young Dalit girl. More shameful is the forceful cremation without the family's presence or consent...
Mamata Banerjee, West Bengal CM

We will put political pressure on the government. I request everyone to raise their voice and every woman needs to question the government to seek justice for the daughter of Hathras
Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Congress general secretary

Politcians failed to protect SCs, STs: Dalit bodies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

DALIT organisations said the country's elected representatives and political parties should take responsibility for the failure to protect the lower-caste and Adivasi communities after the latest NCRB data shows the conviction percentage under the SCs and STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in conjunction with the IPC remained at 32.1% for SCs and 26.4% for STs.

They demanded immediate action to end atrocities against Dalit and Adivasis and that they would not trust mere promises anymore, said a statement from the National Dalit Movement for Justice (NDMJ)-NCDHR — a coalition of Dalit rights group, and National Coalition for Strengthening SCs and STs (PoA) Act — a platform of more than 500 Dalits and Adivasis civil society organisations, communities, leaders and activists.

The groups called for effective implementation of the SCs and STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, and that swift action must be taken against the dominant caste perpetrators violating the human rights of Dalits. The cases should be transparently investigated, they said.

A total of 62,195 cases of atrocities against scheduled castes remained pending for investigation at the end of the year 2019, including previous year cases — an analysis by the platforms showed.

Similarly, 10,878 cases of atrocities against schedule tribes were pending for investigation.

At the end of the year, 93.8% of cases of atrocities against SCs remained pending whereas for STs, the percentage stood at 91.4%.

The latest data showed crimes against scheduled caste have increased by 7.3% as compared to 2018. The data comes amid a nationwide uproar over the alleged gang-rape of a Dalit girl and the way the UP police handled her cremation.

Allow media, politicians to meet kin: Bharti

NEW DELHI: Stating that the Hathras incident has dented the image of the BJP and the Uttar Pradesh government, former vice-president of the party Uma Bharti on Friday called upon the CM Yogi Adityanath to allow the political leaders and media persons to visit the family members of the victim.

"I'm restless in the corona ward at AIIMS, Rishikesh. If I had not been Covid positive, I would have been in the village of the victim, sitting with the family members. Once I'm discharged, I will definitely meet the family members of the victim," said Bharti in a series of tweets, while calling upon the CM to lift restrictions the on media and politicians from visiting the village of the victim.

The senior BJP leader also said while the party had invoked Ram Rajya during the recent laying of the foundation of the Ram temple at Ayodhya, the "suspicious actions of the police have dented the image of the UP government and the BJP".

"There is no rule in my knowledge that the family members of the victim cannot meet anyone during the SIT investigation, and even it be so the whole probe itself will be under the heavy shadow of doubt," added Bharti.

Bharti said the way the village has been cordoned off gives space for suspicions. *ENS*

Priyanka attends prayer meet, vows to keep up heat

NEW DELHI: Maintaining pressure on the UP government over the Hathras rape and murder case, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Friday attended a prayer meet at Delhi's Valmiki Temple and said the party will not sit quietly till justice is ensured.

"She wasn't even given a cremation following Hindu customs. We will put political pressure on the government," she said while addressing an event organised by the Valmiki community. She said every woman in this country needs to raise her voice and question the government to seek justice for the daughter of Hathras. "I request everyone to raise their voice and every woman needs to question the government to seek justice for the daughter of Hathras," she told the gathering.

Kejriwal joins protest

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal joined a protest at Jantar Mantar and demanded the strictest punishment for the accused while asserting that politics should not be done over the issue. Kejriwal, who joined the protest for the first time since he became CM for the third time, said this is a fight for justice for the victim's family.

Mamata to lead protest

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee will lead a protest march in Kolkata on Saturday. The rally will start at 4 pm and participants will walk from the Birla Planetarium to the Mahatma Gandhi's statue in central Kolkata, they said.

SP workers lathicharged

SP workers were lathicharged by the police in Hazratganj in Lucknow while they were taking out a protest march. The march which started from the party office was supposed to end at the Gandhi statue where the MLAs were scheduled to begin a 'maun vrat'). *ENS*

Priyanka Gandhi attends a prayer meet at a Valmiki temple in New Delhi | PARVEEN NEGI

States with high Covid cases not keen to reopen schools

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @New Delhi

DESPITE the Centre's fresh guidelines for Unlock 5.0, giving states and UTs the powers to decide on re-opening of schools and coaching institutions after October 15, most states struggling with high Covid-19 cases are in no hurry to do so very soon, said sources in the Union Education Ministry.

"We have now been intimated by the states that most of them want to keep schools shut till at least October or even later as they are not confident about reopening of the educational institutions in the wake of the rising coronavirus cases," a senior official in the education ministry said.

Another official pointed out that, so far, among major states, only UP where the official Covid-19 case tally has reached 4,03,101 and the number of active cases are 50,378, has declared its intent for re-opening educational institutions in a graded manner. On Thursday, the UP government allowed the opening of schools in a phased manner, while maintaining consultation with various stakeholders and due permission from parents.

Most other high burden states such as Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, West Bengal and Bihar, however, have given indications that re-opening of schools until after several weeks may not be on the agenda.

A guideline by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued last month too had suggested that the decision to re-open schools and education institutions should be taken with the consent of parents or guardians.

It had also released a detailed list of operating procedures with states and UTs, but states were also allowed to come up with their guidelines as well to suit local requirements.

On Thursday, Union education minister Ramesh Pokhariyal Nishank, said the department of higher education may decide in consultation with the MHA on the reopening of colleges and universities. "Guidelines for reopening of schools/HEIs outside containment zones: States/UTs may decide in respect of reopening of schools & coaching institutes after Oct 15, in a graded manner," he had tweeted. As per UGC's latest calendar, the academic session for freshers is set to begin in November but it's likely to be through online.

Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) workers hold posters during an awareness drive against the coronavirus on Friday | PTI

India's corona death toll crosses 1 lakh mark, Maha tops chart

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE death toll due to the Covid-19 in the country crossed the 1 lakh-mark on Friday, according to CovidIndia.Org, a non-government dashboard for the infectious disease in the country.

The country had registered a total of 1,00,271 infection deaths according to the dashboard which updates information with the data released from states.

The death numbers reaching the grim milestone is set to reflect in the Centre's official tally released on Saturday morning.

Of the total deaths, the highest — 37,490 — have been reported in Maharashtra followed by Tamil Nadu which has seen 9,586 deaths so far. Karnataka, has reported the third highest number of deaths at 8,994. Globally, India, so far, has the third highest Covid-19 deaths after the USA which has reported over 2 lakh deaths and Brazil where 1.4 lakh deaths have been registered. The deaths in India are still growing at a rate of 1.1% even though the overall case fatality rate has been declining and has now reached 1.6%.

The Centre has been stressing that the overall case management has improved in most parts of the country due to better clinical management and prompt response of the health systems.

Meanwhile, researchers at McGill University in Canada said an effective vaccine is not likely to be available for the general public before the fall of 2021.

'In 3 yrs, 255 died in police custody, 3 cops convicted'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

AS many as 255 people died in police custody in three years from 2017-2019, but only three police personnel were convicted in these cases in these years, according to an analysis of the NCRB data.

According to the recently released 2019 National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report, 49 cases of human rights violation were lodged against various police departments across the country, for crimes like encounter killings, custodial deaths, illegal detention, torture by police, extortion and other similar crimes. A total of 85 people died in police custody in 2019 for which 23 arrests were made. However, chargesheets were filed against just eight police personnel and none of the cases resulted in a conviction.

A total of 85 people died in police custody in 2019 for which 23 arrests were made
NCRB

In 2018, 70 people died in police custody. A total of 89 cases were filed and 40 arrests were made and chargesheets were filed against 26 policemen. However, not one police personnel in matters of custodial deaths that year. In 2017, when 100 people were reported dead in police custody.

A total of 57 police personnel were arrested and chargesheets were filed in 29 cases against 48 policemen, one of which was acquitted and three were convicted. In 2019 highest number of custodial deaths (11) were reported from Tamil Nadu, while in 2018, most cases, 14, were reported from Gujarat, and in the previous year, Andhra Pradesh reported most, 27, cases.

Under 30% conviction rate in rape cases in India

KANU SARDA @New Delhi

ON an average, 88 rapes take place every day in India, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data for 2019. However, the conviction rate is as low as 27.8%. This means, out of 100 accused, only 28 gets convicted.

The NCRB data reveal the rate of crimes against women increased from 58.8 in 2018 to 62.4 in 2019.

There were 32,033 incidents of rape and the crime rate for rape was the highest in Rajasthan, where 5,997 rapes were reported in 2019. Uttar Pradesh reported 3,065 incidents, followed by Madhya Pradesh at 2,485, Maharashtra 2,299 and Kerala 2,023. Delhi reported 1,253 rape cases in 2019.

One of the common reasons why criminals don't get punished is the poor police investigation. Reasons such as hostility of witnesses and complainants and the familial pressure on the victim also play a role.

The NCRB figures assume significance as it also shows that in many cases, victims don't approach the police complaining about the rape or sexual assault. Expressing concern over the low conviction rate, even the Supreme Court had observed that 90% of rape cases end in acquittal.

EXPRESS READ

Drop disciplinary action: Bhushan to bar council

New Delhi: Senior advocate Prashant Bhushan has asked the Bar Council of Delhi (BCD) to drop the disciplinary proceedings against him, saying his conviction for criminal contempt of court over two tweets was a fundamental assault on the freedom of speech which the regulatory body is supposed to protect as it involves the dignity, freedom and independence of the Bar.

NMC Act, NEP will promote quackery, hybrid docs: Medical body

NEW DELHI: The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has come out strongly against the recently notified National Medical Commission (NMC) Act and the National Education Policy (NEP), saying that these promote "quackery" and "hybrid doctors".

The association has said all the concerns of the profession and the people have been brushed aside in the NMC Act, adding that the proclamation of NEP by the Centre will further legalise "official quackery" and create "generations of polypathy doctors". According to the IMA, the act remains "anti-people and anti-poor".

"The NMC will maintain a parallel register of practitioners euphemistically called Community Health Providers," said a statement by the country's largest body of doctors. "They are an assorted group of persons connected with the modern scientific medical profession. They can be anyone from laboratory technicians to optometrists." The association has expressed apprehension that they will be provided with a license to practise medicine in primary care. "This will include a wide range of diseases and maternity. If they are overseen by another community health provider, they can practise inside ICUs, operation theatres, emergencies, labour rooms and anywhere in the secondary and critical care."

Community Health Providers are an assorted group of persons connected with the modern scientific medical profession. They can be anyone from laboratory technicians to optometrists —IMA

This single clause 32 will cost India millions of lives, said the IMA, adding that letting loose half and partially trained non-medical persons to treat patients is "crime against humanity", the IMA said.

The association criticised the adopted NEP saying that it forms the platform for chaos in medical education. "It abolishes dedicated health universities," it said. *ENS*

SIDHU PLACATED?

Former minister Navjot Singh Sidhu, who was miffed with the Punjab CM, is likely to participate in Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's tractor rallies. The rallies will now take place from October 4 to October 6. Punjab Congress in-charge Harish Rawat had met Sidhu on Thursday.

₹17.5 CRORE GOLD CONFISCATED BY DRI IN BENGAL

Ahmedabad	37	25	Mumbai	32	26
Bhopal	33	22	Panaji	32	25
Jaipur	37	24	Patna	34	26
Amritsar	35	20	Lucknow	36	24
Chennai	33	26	Port Blair	30	25
Kolkata	32	27	Imphal	31	21
Srinagar	27	7	Chandigarh	35	20

Bihar seat-sharing pact done, says Grand Alliance

Official announcement for elections likely in a day or two, says RJD

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ Patna

AFTER weeks of haggling over seats, the RJD-led 'Grand Alliance', comprising the Congress, the CPI, CPI(ML) and the Vikasheel Insan Party (VIP), claimed to have finalised an arrangement for the Assembly polls in Bihar. "We have taken the lead. An official announcement will be made either on Saturday or Sunday," said Mritunjay Tiwari, RJD's principal spokesperson.

He indicated that the formula was finalised after RJD leader Tejashawi Yadav spoke to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over phone for half-an-hour. "This has been made possible because our intention is clear. In the NDA camp, leaders are still groping in the dark over seat-sharing," Tiwari said.

He did not reveal the details of the seat-sharing formula. But sources in the alliance said the RJD may contest 136 seats followed by the Congress on 68, the CPI on 19, the VIP on 10 and the rest could be kept for other Left parties.

Sources said the seat sharing formula was reached after an agreement that the CPI would not field former JNUSU president Kanhaiya Kumar as a candidate, although the former student leader would be a star campaigner. But Kanhaiya would not campaign for the Grand Alliance with Tejashwi, the sources added.

Meanwhile, rumours continued over the fate of talks among ruling NDA partners. BJP leaders Devendra Fadnavis, Sushil Modi, Sanjay Jaiswal, Bhupendra Yadav and others continued to hold marathon meetings with JD-U and LJP leaders. Sources said a fresh row has arisen following JD-U laying claims over some traditional BJP seats.

The LJP, another NDA ally, is learnt to have called yet another meeting of the party's parliamentary board on Saturday in Delhi. Chitranjan Gagan, a senior RJD leader close to Tejashawi, claimed that the LJP would break away from the NDA and contest 143 seats alone without fielding candidates against the BJP.

NOT HERE TO SPLIT VOTES: KUSHWAHA

RLSP president Upendra Kushwaha said on Friday he has formed a three-party front to contest the Bihar Assembly elections to present to the people a "positive choice" and not to split the opposition votes.

BJP meet over list of candidates likely on Sunday

NEW DELHI: The Central Election Committee (CEC) of the BJP is likely to meet on Sunday to approve the candidates of the party for the Bihar Assembly elections.

With October 8 being the last day of the filing of the nomination papers for the first phase, the NDA is yet to officially unveil the seat adjustment plans even as the top leadership continues to brainstorm over the prospective candidates. "The meeting will consider the names of the prospective candidates. The lists will be released in a gradual manner, closer to the dates of filing of the nomination papers for the three phase polls," said a party functionary.

Chaired by BJP chief J P Nadda, the CEC meetings are also attended by PM Narendra Modi and other senior leaders. With the Covid restrictions in place, it's not immediately clear whether the PM will attend the meet. "The BJP brass is taking a closer look at various categories of the constituencies, which are divided into A, B, C, D and E on the basis of the perceived strength of the parties and the poll performances," he added. *ENS*

Farmers crying tears of blood: Sonia

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi/Patna

CONGRESS chief Sonia Gandhi Friday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the recently passed farm legislations, saying that he had done a grave injustice to farmers by enacting the 'black laws'.

Speaking on a day when the Congress is holding countrywide *dharnas* to support farmers, Sonia asserted that the prime minister is doing gross injustice to our '*annadata*' (farmers) as these agri laws were made without even consulting them.

STINGING REMINDER

Some people mocked at the MGNREGS that was brought by the UPA but it was the same scheme that saved the lives of the poor during corona crisis, she said

"The Modi government is making the farmers cry tears of blood, even as they grow foodgrains with their sweat. The Congress party will continue to fight against the three black laws. Today our workers are agitating in favour of farmers and labourers in every assembly constituency. I want to say with confidence that this agitation of farmers and the Congress will be successful and that the farmers will win," she said at her first virtual rally organised for poll-bound Bihar's East Champaran.

Calling Mahatma Gandhi as the biggest sympathiser of farmers, labourers and the working class, Sonia said the agitation in the agriculture sector will become successful and the peasants will emerge victorious. "Mahatma Gandhi used to say that the soul of India resides in villages and fields but today the country's farmers are agitating on the streets against the anti-farmer black laws. The Congress has always made laws with public consent but does the Modi government believe in this?" she said. "Perhaps, the Modi government does not remember that it was unable to change the 'Right to Adequate Compensation Law' for rights of farmers through an ordinance."

The party has called for a two-month agitation against the laws.

TRIBUTES TO BAPU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of his 151st birth anniversary at Rajghat in New Delhi on Friday | SHEKHAR YADAV

J&K Lt Guv urges Kashmir militants to shun violence

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

JAMMU and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday appealed to the local militants to shun the path of violence and return to the social mainstream.

"People of Jammu and Kashmir, especially the youth, want to tread the path of progress and development, and the government is committed to making J&K a role model of development, prosperity. We will empower youth and strengthen panachayat institutions," Sinha said, launching J&K government's ambitious Back to Village phase III from Shermal, Shopian.

He asked the local militants to shun the path of violence. "I urge the misguided youth to shun violence and return to the mainstream. The government is ready to help them with jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities," the L-G said.

He called upon the youth to take advantage of a new wave of educational and business reforms being ushered in by the J&K administration. "J&K people are peace loving people, who believe in dignified life. Our youth now have understood terrible results of violence and it is why they are pursuing their career and cracking prestigious exams."

In a related development, Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh said militancy related incidents in Jammu & Kashmir had winessed a decline.

Cold storages to come up across state, says Uddhav

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

MAHARASHTRA Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray asked the agriculture department to set up storage centres across the state so that crops, including onions, are not wasted.

A first of its kind onion storage facilities will be set up by the government, the chief minister said.

Uddhav said that through this project, industry and agriculture departments has come together hand in hand for the welfare of farmers. "The hard-earned produce of the farmers should get a better price than the guaranteed price. Farmer growers have come together and set up onion storage projects. For the crops that need storage, storage centres should be set up at various places in the state," he said

Farmers face financial crisis when they do not get the price at the time at the harvest time, he said. "The market depends on demand and supply in international and domestic market. If there is already ample supply, the prices crash that makes a big loss to farmers. So storage facilities will rescue them."

Farmers need to unite and try for farming in groups, he said. "We help farmers become self-reliant and get them out of debt. We will also give land for agro-processing units."

EXPRESS READ

AJSU back in BJP camp for Jharkhand bypoll

Ranchi: The AJSU, which had snapped ties with BJP ahead of the 2019 Jharkhand elections, will support BJP candidates in the bypolls to be held for Dumka and Bermo Assembly seats. BJP state chief Deepak Prakash met AJSU chief Sudesh Mahto on Friday morning and sought support for his party, to which Mahto is said to have agreed.

NIA files charge sheet in MLA murder case

Raipur: The NIA has filed its charge sheet in the murder case of BJP MLA Bheema Mandavi in the special court at Jagdalpur. Of the 33 accused, as many as six have been arrested, 22 absconding while the remaining five have died. During the course of investigation, the NIA has identified the details of six who are in its custody.

Jangalmahal to host Didi after over a year

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

CHIEF Minister Mamata Banerjee will visit Jhargram next week — the first after the Trinamool Congress lost all four Lok Sabha seats in Jangalmahal to the BJP in 2019 — to take stock of the situation ahead of the 2021 Bengal election.

Her visit is said to be significant as the ruling party is desperate to recapture its erstwhile citadel from the BJP. Mamata had expressed her disappointment saying her government flooded the region with development works, financial aides and other beneficiary schemes, which were a "mistake".

"She will chair an administrative meeting with district officials and elected members of the civic bodies. Since the jolt in Jangalmahal was massive despite carrying out a slew of development projects and restoring peace, she will assess the ground level situation during her Jhargram visit," said a senior official.

Mamata has already inducted Chhatradhar Mahato in the party's state committee and directed him to bring back those workers who had joined the opposition ranks. "She made changes in the hierarchy of the party's block levels, after an internal assessment blamed the corruption by a section of satraps for the electoral loss. Prashant Kishor engaged his team members to identify the satraps and made them visit the villages and seek apology in a bid to help the party to regain its stronghold,'' said a senior Trinamool leader.

Party insiders said Mamata will assess whether the changes initiated by her party over a period of past one year is well enough to secure electoral dividend in the region.

BJP woman leader held for operating sex racket, Congress leader on the run

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

TWO women office bearers of the BJP and the Congress have been accused of running a sex racket in Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur district.

Five people, including Sunita Verma, a former president of BJP's Sawai Madhopur district unit, have been arrested so far, the police said, adding that two government employees — Shivram Meena who works at the district collector's office and Sandeep Sharma who works at the district industry centre — were among those held. Congress leader Poonam Chaudhary, a former district president of the women's wing of the Congress Seva Dal, has gone missing.

According to the police, Sunita and Poonam were collaborating together to operate the racket by trapping underage girls. The sex racket was busted after a minor spilled the beans that she was exploited on many occasions.

In their complaint to the police, the parents of the girl have alleged that their daughter was lured by promises of being given money by the women leaders from the BJP and the Congress. According to the report, the minor girl was sexually exploited and had to serve many clients due to the fear instilled by the racketeers.

"The girl has alleged that Sunita Verma and Congress leader Poonam Chaudhary were running a sex racket and they forced the girl to be sexually exploited in various places," Sawai Madhopur Deputy SP OP Solanki said.

"The girl has alleged that (BJP leader) Sunita Verma and Congress leader Poonam Chaudhary were running a sex racket and they forced the girl to be sexually exploited in various places

OP Solanki, Sawai Madhopur Deputy SP

COURAGE

Transgender team to scale Himalayan peak

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

IN a first–of-its-kind expedition in the country, a 25-member team of trans-genders left Delhi on Friday for a 12-day expedition to scale the 17,353 ft high Friendship Peak in the Himalayas.

Guided by mountaineer **Ratnesh Pandey**, 35, the expedition is a result of proactive efforts of his foundation and transgender rights activist Laxmi Narayan Tripathi.

With representation from various states such as Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, and Karnataka, the team has among its members a bodybuilder, a model and some social activists. None of them has any prior experience of mountaineering barring team leader Ratnesh Pandey, who climbed Mt Everest in 2016. "It was Tripathi Ji who selected the 25 trans-genders from across the country, after both of us started working on the project four months back. Subsequently, I began an online endurance training of the selected members for the first of its kind expedition," Pandey told *TNIE* on Friday.

After a month and half training of the selected trans-genders, October 2 was fixed as the date for starting the expedition from Delhi.

"October 2 was selected as both Gandhi and Shastri Jayanti fall on the same day. It was a suitable day for beginning the expedition which focuses on building the spirit of equality and showing the world amid Covid pandemic surge that it can conquer the adversity the same way as the team of trans-genders have decided to embark on conquering the 17,353 ft tall peak," said Tripathi.

According to Pandey, who has thrice climbed the Friendship Peak in last six years, the team left Delhi on Friday for Manali, which will form the expedition's base camp.

"The team under my guidance aims to scale the Friendship Peak in 12 days time and consequently get into the Guinness Book of World Record and Limca Book of World Record, who have been informed about the expedition in advance."

Pandey said scaling Friendship Peak is a must for mountaineers to get advanced mountaineering certificate. The peak is popular among beginner trekkers looking to challenge themselves in their adventure pursuits.

Tale of a tweet

It seems NCP chief Sharad Pawar not only holds complete control of his party but also reins in his nephew Ajit Pawar whenever he tries to cross the party line. This was on display after the Maharashtra Deputy CM tweeted a tribute to Jan Sangh leader Deendayal Upadhyaya on his birth anniversary. However, Pawar senior called his nephew and asked to delete the post immediately as the tweet did not go down well with NCP's ideological line. Ajit Pawar had no option but to follow his uncle's directions. When asked about it later, he said, "In politics, we have to listen to our seniors".

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI
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MUMBAI DIARY

All's not well in NCP?

While Ajit Pawar returned to NCP after his short break up with the party and uncle Sharad Pawar, it seems he is yet to regain full influence. His faction has been getting the raw deal in appointments at crucial posts in the Maharashtra government. NCP state chief Jayant Patil, considered close to Sharad Pawar and Supriya Sule, seems to enjoy more power than Ajit and has major say in decisions. Recently, Mumbai NCP chief Nawab Malik wrote a recommendation letter to the NCP leader in Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation for the appointment of his brother to the Improvement Committee. However, he was not appointed on the instructions of Patil. Earlier, Malik's daughter was denied the group leader despite Pawar's recommendation.

Thorat defies CM's will

Maharashtra Congress president Balasaheb Thorat has been maintaining his identity in the Uddhav Thackeray government. The state revenue minister is known for following the party's agenda in both the cabinet and the organisation. Recently, Thorat refused to decrease government rates in certain areas to boost the real estate sector. Shiv Sena and NCP had agreed to the proposal, but Thorat refused citing loss of revenue to the exchequer. CM Thackeray's personal assistant Milind Narvekar met Thorat twice with the same request but he did not budge saying he was putting the interest of the state first.

Why Raut met Fadnavis

The meeting between BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis and Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut has generated quite a buzz. Some media houses even declared that BJP and Shiv Sena are coming together to form the government in Maharashtra. While Fadnavis and Raut have clarified that they met at a suburban hotel in Mumbai as Raut wanted to arrange an interview with the former CM. However, it seems that the agenda of the meeting was neither political nor the interview. Turns out Raut met Fadnavis as an emissary of Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray because some state projects need the Centre's approval.

10-year
military cooperation agreement signed between the US and Morocco on Friday

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	23	8	SNY	Los Angeles	34	18	LC
Colombo	29	25	TDS	Melbourne	26	9	LR
Dhaka	32	27	TDS	Moscow	17	10	HR
Dubai	36	27	SNY	New York	28	19	SNY
Houston	28	18	TDS	Singapore	28	24	TDS
Istanbul	29	21	LC	Toronto	13	8	LC
London	16	9	LC	Washington	31	21	LC

FIVE-POINT PLAN

- There will be closer scrutiny of the curriculum at private schools
- Stricter limits on home-schooling for reasons other than a child's health problems
- Community associations that receive state subsidies will have to sign a contract avowing their commitment to secularism and the values of France
- A ban on the wearing of religious symbols for employees of subcontractors providing public services
- Checks on foreign financing of mosques. There will also be restrictions on imams going abroad for training, French mosques hosting foreign preachers

France unveils plan to crack down on radical Islam

President Emmanuel Macron describes Islam as religion in crisis, announces stricter govt oversight over mosques and private schools

PARIS

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron, trying to rid the country of what authorities call a "parallel society" of radical Muslims thriving outside the values of the nation, laid out a series of measures on Friday in a proposed law that would disrupt the education, finances and other means of indoctrination of the vulnerable.

Macron has coined the term "separatism" to describe the underworld that thrives in some neighborhoods around France where Muslims with a radical vision of their religion take control of the local population to inculcate their beliefs.

Macron stressed in a speech that stigmatizing French Muslims would be falling into a "trap" laid by radicals. He blamed France itself for organizing the "ghettoization" of a population that could easily fall prey to the preaching of those whose goal is to substitute their laws for those of the nation, and reiterated that secularism is the "cement" of France.

Macron laid out a five-point plan aimed at upending the world that lets those who promote a radical brand of Islam thrive, notably via associations or home schools that steep members and students in radical ideology.

The French President speaks to students in Les Mureaux, Paris on Friday | AFP

The proposed bill, which would go to parliament early next year, would require all children from the age of three to attend French schools, and allow distance learning only for medical reasons. Associations, which receive state funding, would be made accountable for their spending, their sometimes invisible leaders and be forced to reimburse misused funds. Macron called France's schools "the heart of secularism (where) children become citizens."

Authorities contend that the vector for inculcating Muslims with an extremist ideology was once the mosque but, today, the main vector is schools.

The measure also includes putting a gradual end to the long-standing practice of importing imams from elsewhere, notably Turkey, Algeria and Morocco, particularly during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and train imams only in France. A Muslim organization that serves as an official conduit to French leaders is to take part in the project.

The rector of the Grand Mosque of Paris cautioned against mixing all Muslims in France with the "separatism question."

"For those who let it be believed that Islam is Islamism, and the reverse, there is indeed a distinction between the Muslim religion and the Islamist ideology," Chems-Eddine Hafiz wrote in a commentary in the newspaper Le Monde. However, the rector threw his support behind the initiative.

France has the largest Muslim population of all countries in Western Europe. *AFP*

Imran brags he would have sacked Army chief on Kargil

ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that he would have sacked the army chief had the Kargil war with India been started without informing him.

Nawaz Sharif, who was the prime minister during the Kargil war, has long maintained that he was not aware of what was happening when the conflict broke out in 1999. He says the then army chief Gen Pervez Musharraf had attacked Kargil without informing him.

"I would have sacked the army chief if Kargil operation was conducted without informing me," Khan said in an interview to *Samaa TV* news channel on Thursday.

"I am an elected prime minister; who has the courage to demand resignation from me?" Khan said.

He also said that he would sack the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) chief if the latter asked him to resign. The comment was made in the context of three-time prime minister Sharif's claim that the ISI chief asked him to step down in 2014 when Khan had unleashed a big protest sit-in the national capital.

Imran Khan

He said the army was keeping the country united and slammed Sharif for targeting the military establishment.

"Look at Libya, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen; the entire Muslim world is ablaze [so] why are we safe? If it weren't for our army, our country would've been in three pieces" Khan said.

Sharif recently made two speeches from London, where he has been staying since November 2019 on medical grounds, directly attacking the army for interference in politics and claimed that Khan came to power through its support.

The powerful Army, which has ruled Pakistan for more than half of its 70 plus years of existence, has hitherto wielded considerable power in the matters of security and foreign policy.

He also claimed that the army was standing by the government in all matters including relations with India.

Pakistan PM Imran Khan has lashed out at the fiery speeches made by former premier and PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif, stating that he was playing a dangerous game by targeting Islamabad's powerful military establishment at the behest of India. *Agencies*

Civil-military ties at their best: Pak PM

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said that it was not the army's job to run the government and failure of an elected government should not be used to impose a martial law. "If a judge gives a wrong decision it means the judiciary has to evolve. The army has evolved as well. Contemporary civil-military relations are the best in history."

LEADERS HIT

Trump oldest head of state to test Covid positive

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has joined a growing group of world leaders who have been infected with the coronavirus. At 74, the US president is the oldest head of state to become infected with the virus, and his age puts him at higher risk of serious complications from Covid-19.

British PM Boris Johnson was the first major world leader confirmed to have Covid-19, after facing criticism for downplaying the pandemic. Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro announced his illness in July and used it to publicly extol hydroxychloroquine as a treatment for Covid-19.

In June, Honduras president Juan Orlando Hernández announced that he had tested positive, along with two other people. Belarus president Aleksandr Lukashenko said in July he had contracted it himself. *AP*

Don out of campaign trail for a few weeks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE1

ASSUMING the symptoms subside quickly, Trump will have to stay off his campaign trail for at least a couple of weeks, putting a question mark over his participation in the second presidential debate, scheduled for October 15.

Even when the president was healthy, he had indicated that he may not accept defeat in the elections. Whether or not there is an option on his table to put off polls citing lack of a level playing field since his campaign has come to a halt, is as yet unknown. He, however, will have to tweak his messaging around Covid-19, which he had earlier claimed would disappear. His infection dragged down most global markets.

ASIA MATTERS

PAKISTAN

Restaurants with no distancing shut

Pakistan authorities have closed more than 100 restaurants and six wedding halls in the financial capital of Karachi over violations of social distancing rules amid a sudden increase in Covid deaths. The government has also imposed a lockdown in some of the city's high-risk areas to contain the spread of the coronavirus. A similar crackdown over social distancing rules has also been ordered in other parts of the country. Pakistanis have been seen routinely violating social distancing since last month when wedding halls were allowed to open on the condition they adhere to such rules. Authorities earlier reported 13 out of the country's 15 single-day fatalities in southern Sindh province, of which Karachi is the capital. Pakistan has reported 3,13,431 confirmed cases.

SINGAPORE

Opposition politician held ahead of case against PMs

A Singaporean opposition politician and lawyer was arrested on Friday on suspicion of misappropriating money and harassment, days before a client of his faces a libel case against the city-state's leader. Lim Tean was escorted from his office as he prepared his client's case against Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, and his own lawyer slammed the arrest as "politically motivated". Lim, who heads a political party called Peoples Voice, is accused inter alia of misappropriating money awarded by a court to a client

THAILAND

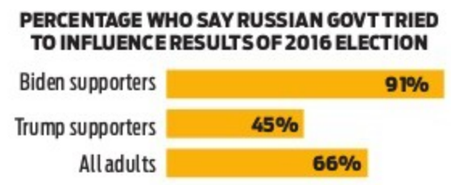
Govt greenlights partial reopening of borders

Thailand will begin reopening its borders to outsiders and kickstart a tourism industry battered by the coronavirus with a flight from China later this month, authorities said Friday. The kingdom's economy is highly dependent on foreign visitors but the country is expecting a fraction of the nearly 40 million international arrivals it recorded last year, after the pandemic brought global air travel to a near standstill. Officials hope to portray the country as a safe holiday destination after Thailand escaped relatively unscathed from the outbreak, with just 59 deaths recorded nationwide. But the scheme has been designed to forestall any risk of importing new cases, with only visitors from countries deemed low risk allowed to enter the country and all new arrivals required to spend 14 days in hotel quarantine

Most Americans fear foreign meddling

With November 3 just a month away, most Americans say they are concerned about the potential for foreign meddling in the US elections, according to latest AP poll

PERCENTAGE WHO SAY RUSSIAN GOVT TRIED TO INFLUENCE RESULTS OF 2016 ELECTION



of Biden supporters concerned about foreign agents tampering with voting systems. About 61% of Trump supporters said the same. Overall, about **74%** said they're concerned

of Trump supporters are inclined to back strengthening ties with Russia. About three-quarters of Biden supporters endorse weaker ties with the country

of Americans disapprove of Trump's relationship with Russia

Survey of 1,053 adults

The AP-NORC poll of 1,053 adults was conducted between September 11 and 14. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 4.1 percentage points

My opinion is countries have interfered in elections for a long, long time, and I am positive the United States has done their share of trying to interfere in other countries' elections. So what goes around comes around

A Trump supporter

We don't have to worry about foreign countries doing that anymore. We have plenty of actors who are more than happy to completely undermine our democratic institutions with the short-term goal of four more years of the Trump administration

Austin Wright, assistant professor, University of Chicago

Pompeo clash with Vatican as Pope seeks China deal

VATICAN

THE US and the Vatican butted heads over China on Thursday as the Holy See chafed at US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's public call to take a harsher stance against Chinese restrictions on religious freedom.

The State Department sought to play down the differences, but tensions were palpable during Pompeo's two-day visit to Rome.

The discord on China comes as the Vatican is heading into delicate negotiations with Beijing to extend its controversial 2018 accord over bishop nominations.

Pompeo spent about 45 minutes on Thursday meeting in the Apostolic Palace with his Vatican counterpart, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, and the Vatican foreign minister, Archbishop Paul Gallagher.

"We had a constructive discussion," Pompeo said after the meeting, "We have a shared objective. The Chinese Communist Party is behaving in ways that are reminiscent of what's only happened in centuries past in terms of human rights violations. We've watched them oppress not only Muslim Uighurs but Christians, Catholics, Falun Gong, people of all faiths," Pompeo said.

The Vatican is seeking to extend its accord with China, which envisages a process of dialogue in selecting bishops.

It signed it in 2018 in hopes it would help unite China's Catholics, who for seven decades have been split between those belonging to an official, state-sanctioned church and an underground church loyal to Rome. *AFP*

DESPERATE MARCH TO BETTER FUTURE

A Honduran migrant couple and their daughter cross a police fence to enter Guatemala on their way to the US on Friday | AP

EXPRESS READ

US hiring slows for 3rd straight month in Sep

New York: America's employers added 6,61,000 jobs in September, the third straight month of slower hiring and evidence from the final jobs report before the presidential election that the economic recovery has weakened. With September's hiring gain, the economy has recovered only slightly more than half the 22 million jobs that were wiped out by the viral pandemic. The pattern of slower hiring will delay a full recovery of jobs. The unemployment rate fell last month to 7.9% from 8.4% in August

My mom was fighter for women: Kamala Harris

Washington: Senator Kamala Harris, who is the Democratic Party's vice-presidential candidate, has attributed her entire life's success to her mother Shyamala Gopalan, saying she was a fighter for women. "There are so many stories I could tell about her that have influenced who I am. My mother was a fighter for women her entire life. Her specialty was breast cancer, and, you know, before I was probably aware of it, I was hearing her passion for the importance of women receiving dignity in the health care system," Harris said during a podcast

Azerbaijan strikes key town, many hurt: Armenia

STEPANAKERT

ARMENIA accused Azerbaijani forces of striking the main city in the disputed Nagorny Karabakh region on Friday as fighting raged for a sixth day. Yerevan said it was ready to work with mediators for a ceasefire, but Azerbaijan fired back that Armenia must first withdraw its troops.

Baku and Yerevan have for decades been locked in a simmering conflict over the ethnic Armenian province that broke away from Azerbaijan in a bitterly fought war in the 1990s.

New fighting that erupted on Sunday has been the heaviest in decades and has claimed nearly 200 lives, including more than 30 civilians.

Video grab shows an Armenian rocket downing an Azeri drone as clashes over the disputed Nagorno Karabakh region continued for the sixth day on Friday | AFP

Intermittent shelling and ambulance sirens were heard in Stepanakert, the main city in Karabakh, throughout the day, an AFP team reported.

Armenia said Azerbaijani forces struck Stepanakert, wounding "many" people, but some locals said they were not afraid. "There is no fear. We have our pride," Arkady, a 66-year-old resident said. "There will be victims. A war is a war."

The separatist government in Stepanakert said the Azerbaijani forces had destroyed a bridge linking Armenia to Karabakh and vowed to launch a counterstrike.

"There will be a proportionate response," said Vagram Pogosyan, a spokesman for the separatist leader.

In among the chaos, civilians were bearing the brunt of the surge in violence, the International Committee of the Red Cross warned. *AFP*

₹33,000 cr is the amount of capital investment that the government is expected to generate through the coal block auctions over the next five to seven years

Despite uptick, full recovery set to be a long slog

SUNITHA NATTI

ALL NOT ROSY

- The services sector remains in trouble and recovery may take longer
- CMIE data shows new project investments fell in the September quarter

SEVERAL high frequency economic indicators are showing signs of life, but we are still months away from recovery getting truely going. The latest data dispatches indicate that the economy is moving upwards, though economists have reason to believe that some of the uptick is due to pent-up demand from previous months. While some project recovery to begin as early as Q3, others are avoiding reading too much into the anticipated festive-season spending.

In September, PMI (manufacturing) came in at 56.8%, GST collections were up 4%, e-way bills touched a 6-month high, railway freight was up 15% and power demand up by nearly 5%. However, the services sector continues to be in trouble and could take longer to recover, while bank non-food credit is growing at a snail's pace. CMIE data shows that new project investments fell in the September quarter, with both the public and private sector announcing fewer projects.

"Within the details, measures of output, new orders and raw material purchases saw the biggest gains, while export orders flipped back to expansion. However, these improvements are not yet driving up employment, with this index stagnant below 50 for the 6th straight month. Stocks of finished goods also fell to a 3-month low," Barclays noted. Moreover, for any rise or decline in economic indicators to become a trend, one should weigh at least six months data to know its full weight. Any meaningful recovery will begin only when economic activity reaches pre-Covid levels, but there are different takes on it.

While the Ministry of Finance concluded last month that the worst was over and that the Indian economy was on the path of a V-shaped recovery, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das was on the other side of the spectrum, asserting that even though indicators including agricultural activity, PMI and certain private estimates on unemployment point to signs of stabilistion, recovery was still not entrenched. "By all indications, the recovery is likely to be gradual as efforts towards re-opening of the economy are confronted with rising infections," he noted.

The ministry, on other hand, cited strengthening rural demand and sectors like construction and manufacturing recording a revival. "The worst seems to be behind us as high-frequency indicators show an improvement June onwards," it said.

Centre raises borrowing limit for AP, UP

The two states can now borrow an extra ₹7,376 crore cumulatively since they have met stipulated reform conditions

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

EXTRA ROOM

₹4,851 cr is the extra borrowing space given to Uttar Pradesh

₹2,525 cr is additional borrowing space granted for Andhra

THE Union Finance Ministry has allowed two states—Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh—to enhance their borrowings during the current financial year by a cumulative ₹7,376 crore. According to the ministry this enhancement is due since the two states have fulfilled the criteria of successfully undertaking stipulated reforms in the public distribution system (PDS) and ease of doing business.

"The Ministry of Finance has granted additional borrowing permission to two more states, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh, for successfully undertaking reforms in the public distribution system (PDS) and ease of doing business," an official statement from the Ministry of Finance said on Friday.

The Centre claimed that this

additional borrowing of ₹7,376 crore, will help them to meet their higher expenditure requirements needed to tackle the Covid-19 crisis.

Uttar Pradesh has become the sixth state to complete the reform process in the public distribution system by implementing the One Nation-One Ration Card system. This makes it eligible to raise an additional amount of ₹4,851 crore through open market borrowings (OMBs). The finance ministry statement added that Andhra Pradesh has became the first state in the country to successfully undertake ease of doing business reforms and has, thus, become eligible to raise an additional amount of ₹2,525 crore through OMB.

The announcement comes after five states—Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Goa, Karnataka and Tripura—received the finance ministry's nod to borrow an additional ₹9,913 crore after implementing the One Nation-One Ration Card.

As a part of the Aatmnirbhar Bharat package announced in May, the Centre had allowed an additional borrowing limit of up to 2 per cent of GSDP to the states for 2020-21. Of this, one per cent was subject to the implementation of four specific state-level reforms, with each reform being given a weightage of 0.25 per cent. These reforms were implementing One Nation-One Ration Card, ease of doing business, and tweaks to urban local bodies and the power sector.

Exports rise 5.27 %, trade deficit dips as global demand perks up in Sept

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

INDIA'S exports grew by 5.27 per cent year-on-year in September to $27.4 billion, mainly on the back of a jump in iron ore trade, farm products and pharmaceuticals as post-Covid demand from many countries perked up.

Imports on the other hand dipped by 19.6 per cent to $30.31 billion, according to commerce ministry data released on Friday. The contraction in imports, seen by analysts as a sign of a weaker recovery by Indian industry and lower oil prices, narrowed the trade deficit to $2.91 billion against $11.67 billion in September 2019.

The rise in exports happened after sales abroad shrank for six months in a row. Iron ore exports, much of it going to China, more than doubled recording a growth of 109.52 per

cent. "The Chinese have got over the Covid hump and are spending on infrastructure projects which is why they are importing raw materials like iron ore," said Prof Biswajit Dhar of the JNU and a member of the Board of Trade.

Exports to China have gone up despite India taking a number of steps to reduce its import dependence on its northern neighbour, with whose troops Indian soldiers clashed over a disputed border recently. Among other products showing a jump were rice, whose sales abroad shot up by 92.44 per cent, oil meals (43.9 per cent), carpets (42.89 per cent), pharmaceuticals (24.36 per cent), Meat, dairy and poultry products (19.96 per cent) and Cotton yarn/fabrics/madeups, handloom products (14.82 per cent).

"We have made a good recovery, but it's mostly in raw materials," pointed out Sharad Kumar Saraf, President of Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO). Added Dhar, "We have huge stocks of farm produce and need to sell them to make space for our Kharif crop, hence the added impetus to sell." The Indian Pharma sector was also obviously a Covid beneficiary as countries stocked up on drugs for their health care sectors.

ANTI-DUMPING

Two more probes into Chinese imports begin

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

LESS than a week after it launched a probe into the alleged dumping of a certain pharmaceutical raw material by Chinese traders, India's Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has begun two more probes into the similar dumping of other products.

According to a notice from the agency, which operates under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, it has started an investigation into the alleged dumping of 'Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) Blends'—a product used in commercial and residential air conditioning—and 'Decor paper' from China.

The probe has been initiated based on applications filed by domestic companies—SRF Ltd in the case of HFC blends and ITC Ltd in the case of Decor paper. Both the companies have alleged that the dumping of these products has caused harm to their industries—a pre-requisite condition for any anti-dumping action.

"... having satisfied itself, on the basis of the prima facie evidence submitted by the domestic industry, about dumping of the subject goods originating in or exported from the subject country, injury to the domestic industry and causal link between such alleged dumping and injury, and in accordance with (the law) the Authority, hereby, initiates an investigation," said the DGTR.

Having satisfied itself, on the basis of the prima facie evidence, about dumping from the subject country, injury to the domestic industry... the Authority initiates an investigation

Directorate General of Trade Remedies

If the investigation confirms the alleged dumping, the authority will recommend that the Ministry of Finance impose a proportional anti-dumping duty on the item in order to ensure a level playing field for domestic manufacturers.

Just this Monday, September 28, the DGTR had begun a similar probe into the alleged dumping of Ceftriaxone Sodium Sterile, a pharmaceutical raw material based on a petition by two Indian pharma companies. Brokerages note that China accounts for most of the key starting materials (KSM) consumed by Indian pharma firms, with dependency at around 60-70%.

MARKET DEBUT

RailTel files DHRP with SEBI for ₹700 cr IPO

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

STATE-owned telecom infrastructure major RailTel Corporation of India Ltd., has filed a draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with markets regulator SEBI for a ₹700 crore Initial Public Offering (IPO). The filing of the prospectus is the first step in the process to debut on the stock markets and the Cabinet had given its approval for a RailTel IPO as early as December 2018.

The DHRP filed with the Securities and Exchanges Board details an IPO which is entirely an offer for sale (OFS) which will offer a total of 8.66 crore equity shares of the government on the market. According to experts, the IPO may garner the Central government an estimated ₹700 crore, or more depending on the strength of the market.

RailTel is a rather unique firm, in that it is a large telecom infrastructure provider with a presence all across the country by leveraging its Right of Way (RoW) along the railway tracks owned by the Indian Railways. As of June 30 this year, its optical fibre network covered over 55,000 km and 5,677 railway stations across all states.

It has also been selected for the implementation of several government projects, including the roll-out of the National Knowledge Network (NKN), the flagship Bharat Net programme and an optical fibre-based connectivity project in northeast India. RailTel also undertakes Information & Communication Technology (ICT) projects for state governments. The DHRP says its operations have been funded entirely by internal accruals since 2013 and that it is currently debt free. Revenue from operations grew at 7.47 percent between FY18-20. ICICI Securities, IDBI Capital and SBI Capital Markets are lead managers for the issue.

CV sales to rise, but finance remains a concern

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

VINOD Aggarwal, MD & CEO of Volvo Eicher Commercial Vehicles (VECV) expects demand for commercial vehicles to recover in the final quarter of FY21 driven by a rise in infrastructure activities and pent-up replacement demand.

"Every month is doing better the previous month. We expect very good demand for CVs Q3 and Q4 will surely be better than Q3. In Q4, we also expect GDP to be positive. The worst, which was 23.9 per cent decline in GDP, is over now," Aggarwal told this publication.

CV sales fell 85 per cent in Q1 to just 31,636 units due to the Covid 19-driven lockdown. However, in recent months, CV makers have seen a strong improvement in sales, especially for light commercial vehicles.

"Government is focused on upscaling infra activity and this will generate demand for CVs," Aggarwal said. He added that there is also huge pent-up demand from fleet operators to replace older vehicles with new models.

"If you look at the industry, sales have dropped by 40 per cent in FY19-20. It means that replacements were very less. Additionally, Axle norms led to transporters increasing carrying capacity of trucks. Now productivity is low and they need to be replaced," he said.

According to him, sectors which are linked to the rural economy and e-commerce sector will also drive demand.

However, liquidity will continue to remain a major concern for the sector. The moratorium on loans has now ended and it would be an uphill task for fleet operators to pay EMIs. Since the collapse of IL&FS in 2018, non-banking financial institutions have also become very wary of financing the auto sector. "Financers definitely will be very careful. At the end of the day, they are accountable to the shareholders. But, there are players whose track record is good," Aggarwal pointed out.

September brings some relief to major CV makers

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

INDIA'S largest commercial vehicle manufacturer Tata Motors Ltd reported total sales of 23,245 units (-4 per cent) in September 2020 compared to 24,279 units for the same period last year. While this may not seem all that impressive, the jump in sales compared to the previous month has been substantial, indicating that much of the pent-up demand that has built up over the past five months is finally starting to leak through to the market.

According to the data released, the country's second largest CV manufacturer Ashok Leyland's overall CV sales remained flat at 18,907 units, still an improvement over demand figures recorded in the recent few months.

Girish Wagh, president – Commercial Vehicles Business Unit, Tata Motors said, "Tata Motors' commercial vehicle domestic sales in Q2FY21 at 52,094 units was around 23% lower than Q2FY2020. However, it was significantly higher than the previous quarter (Q1 FY2021) on the back of gradually increasing demand and improving supply situation. In September, the sale at 23,245 units was 38% higher than last month while being 4.3% below September 2019. Offtake was higher than retail, as we prepare for sequential improvement in retails in the coming months."

India's other large commercial vehicle maker, Mahindra & Mahindra, also recorded a relatively good performance as far as its CV segment was concerned. According to the firm, it sold an overall 7,847 units of CVs last month, a positive annual growth rate, while VECV reported a gradual improvement in sales selling a total of 2,940 units.

EXPRESS READ

'Successful applicants can't withdraw offer'

New Delhi: The NCLAT has said that once a resolution plan is approved by the lenders, then the successful bidder cannot be permitted to withdraw its offer. A three-member NCLAT bench said the sanctity of resolution process has to be maintained and such a move would "frustrate" the entire insolvency resolution process.

BharatPe aims for ₹1,000 cr disbursal

New Delhi: Merchant payment facilitating network BharatPe on Friday said it has disbursed ₹80 crore loans in September, and targets ₹1,000 crore disbursal in 2020-21. BharatPe has also facilitated loan disbursals to the tune of ₹150 crore through its partners, in the September quarter, the company said in a release.

FT MF's six shut schemes generate ₹8,262 cr

New Delhi: Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund on Friday said its six shut schemes have received ₹8,262 crore from maturities, prepayments and coupon payments since closing down in April. The schemes have received ₹1,078 crore during September 1-15. This takes the total cash flows received till date since April 24 to ₹8,262 crore, the company said.

M&M launches new Thar priced up to ₹13.75 lakh

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Chennai

MAHINDRA & Mahindra (M&M) on Friday launched the new version of its sports utility vehicle Thar, priced between ₹9.8 lakh and ₹13.75 lakh (ex-showroom). The company has introduced the model in two trims—AX and LX—with both petrol and diesel powertrain options.

All the variants of the new Thar come with a four-wheel drive set up and customers can start booking the model from Friday itself, the company's officials said. M&M has plans to start delivery of the vehicle from next month.

"Thar is a notch higher in its appeal, owing to its ability to be as comfortable on paved roads, as it has always been off-road.We are confident that the Thar tribe will grow stronger as a new set of customers come into its fore, in addition to the traditionalists," said MD of the company Pawan Goenka.

Designed and engineered in India, the new Thar will be manufactured at the company's Nashik plant. To make the model more attractive than its predecessor, the company has equipped it with several of the latest features such as a 17.7 cm touchscreen infotainment system, real time adventure statistics display, cruise control, key-less entry, and smartphone connectivity.

PLAYING CATCH-UP

Leather exports close in on pre-Covid mark

BINITA JAISWAL @ Chennai

AGGRESSIVE online marketing initiatives and pent up demand has delivered a boost to Indian leather exports. According to the Council for Leather Exports (CLE), leather exports from India in August reached almost 83 per cent of last year's levels and the CLE remains confident that the industry would have breached 90 per cent of last year's level by September-end.

Aqeel Ahmed Panaruna, chairman, CLE, said, "The market is showing good signs of recovery month after month. The export performance was about 60 per cent in June 2020 and in July it reached

The market is showing good signs of recovery month after month. The export performance was about 60 per cent in June 2020 and in July it reached 73 per cent

Aqeel Ahmed Panaruna, chairman, Council for Leather Exports

73 per cent as compared to the same period last year. Order books are good and we are optimistic of achieving 90 per cent of last year's exports in September".

CLE has also undertaken aggressive marketing efforts through the virtual medium over the past few months. According to the council, it has organised virtual leather fairs, exhibitions and B2B meetings in different countries.

Though India remains a preferred sourcing destination for major markets such as the US and Europe, CLE says it is also trying to attract potential buyers from countries such as Russia, Korea, and Peru.

"In the wake of changes in the global trade scenario, there are emerging trade opportunities for us. We are very keen to further expand our presence in the largest market of USA. We have signed MOUs with Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America (FDRA) and US Fashion Industry Association (USFIA)so as to increase business tie-ups," said Panaruna.

But they remain concerned over a possible second wave of infections. "Autumn-winter is the most important season for us. We expect very good winter sales, if there is no second wave of pandemic," he noted. Besides sales, the industry is looking at widening investment opportunities too.

Messi & Fati inspire 10-man Barca to victory

Barcelona's new double-act delivered again as Lionel Messi and Ansu Fati led them to a 3-0 victory at Celta Vigo in La Liga on Thursday, despite Clement Lenglet being sent off in the first half. Fati struck early before Messi doubled the lead shortly after half-time.

IPL TOPPERS

Team	MP	W	L	Pts	NRR
MI	4	2	2	4	1.094
DC	3	2	1	4	0.483
KKR	3	2	1	4	0.117
SRH	4	2	2	4	-0.084
RR	3	2	1	4	-0.219
RCB	3	2	1	4	-1.450
KXIP	4	1	3	2	0.521
CSK	4	1	3	2	-0.719

ORANGE CAP: M AGARWAL 246 RUNS

PURPLE CAP: M SHAMI 08 WKTS

SIX-O-METER: 198

FAIRPLAY: CSK

Updated till CSK vs SRH match

For news, views and more log on to newindianexpress.com/sports/ipl

SPORTING LIFE

LIVE TODAY

CRICKET

RCB vs RR @ 3.30 PM

KKR vs DC @ 7.30 PM

Star Sports 1/Hotstar

TENNIS

French Open | Hotstar/Star Sports Select 2 @ 2:30 pm

Good start for Sharma

NORTH BERWICK (SCOTLAND): Shubhankar Sharma got off to his best start since February, carding a one-under 70 in the first round of the ASI Scottish Open. Sharma is tied-39. Gaganjeet Bhullar struggled to six-over 77 that included a closing triple bogey on Thursday.

RCB VS RR HEAD-TO-HEAD | RR 10, RCB 8

TOP-ORDER OR BUST

After using Sharjah's postage stamp size to good effect, Royals came up a cropper against Kolkata in Dubai. Abu Dhabi will be another test for the Men in Pink who don't have the batting depth. After Robin Uthappa at No 4, the others can charitably be classified as 'see-ball, hit-ball' players with the exception of Tom Curran. The form of Riyan Parag could lead to opportunities for others in that middle-order.

KOHLI'S LACK OF RUNS

Bangalore's runs at the top have made this a non issue so far but the captain is going through a lean phase. He hasn't crossed 25 in his last eight innings for the team and his aggregate this year is 18.

FIGHT FOR TOP

These are early days yet but there is an incentive for both teams to win on Saturday. Whoever wins will go top of the table, at least for a few hours. That could be a big boost because these two franchises aren't noted for occupying the top spots of the leaderboard.

DOUBLE DELIGHT

DC VS KKR HEAD-TO-HEAD | KKR 13, DC 10

SIX-HITTING CONTEST

There has been an average of one six every eight balls in Sharjah. Even if it's a small sample size, the power-hitters on both teams — Sunil Narine, Andre Russell, Rishabh Pant, Shimron Hetmyer — will fancy their shoulders. This could come down to the team which hits more sixes.

CUMMINS VS RABADA

This match is an opportunity to watch two of the finest white-ball operators in action. The South African has been special in the three matches thus far and has bowled 32 dots so far. That most of them have come at the death has also helped Delhi. Meanwhile, apart from the one blip, the Australian Cummins too has settled in well. His cumulative figures for the last two matches is 2/32 from seven overs.

CONDITIONS APPLY

More of the same, with temperatures dropping to 33 by the time the match gets underway. There will be a gentle breeze but that may not translate to respite for the bowlers.

COMING ALIVE IN THE DEATH

Preserving wickets for a late onslaught has become the new normal for most teams in IPL this season

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Chennai

AFTER Mumbai Indians' extraordinary assault at the death against Kings XI Punjab, one of the main protagonists of said assault, Kieron Pollard, was happy to let the world in on a very visible trend at this year's Indian Premier League. "We know sky is the limit in the last four overs," he said after the match. Even if Punjab helped Mumbai along by bowling Krishnappa Gowtham (25 runs) and Jimmy Neesham (18), that scenario has played itself even against established bowlers over the first two weeks.

Here are a few examples from some of the games. Even as early as the second game, Delhi Capitals scored 61 runs in the last four overs against Punjab, who in return, scored 52. Rajasthan Royals helped themselves to 50 runs against Chennai Super Kings, who scored 62 (CSK made some of the runs after they had mathematically lost). In Dubai to close out the first week, Punjab went from 132/3 to 206/3 in just 24 balls against the likes of Dale Steyn.

To cut a long story short, this year's edition seems to be witnessing a lot more teams willing

Mumbai's Kieron Pollard

to be patient, preserving wickets before opting for a crescendo at the end. There are no prizes for guessing the reward for this strategy: winning more games. Consider this. In the 13 games so far, teams that have lost fewer wickets in the first 16 overs have emerged winners 11 times (including two in the Super Over).

Now, this may be stating the obvious but it even includes teams who had slower run-rates in the first 16 overs than the opponents. For example, in the first match, Mumbai had scored 136 in their first 16 as compared to Chennai's 121. But the latter had lost two wickets fewer and that gave them the platform to chase down 42 runs in the last four overs. In the third match, Sunrisers Hyderabad, chasing Bangalore's 164, had scored more runs (127 to 124) but had lost an extra wicket at the same stage. That was a contributing factor as they collapsed.

A few teams aren't worried about scoreboard pressure. They have come around to the realisation that wickets in the bank are worth more than runs on the board. That was the genesis behind Rajasthan chasing down a target of 224, the highest successful run-chase in the league's 12-year history. They had scored 17 runs fewer than Punjab after the first 16 but had eight wickets left to play with.

On Thursday, Pollard and Hardik Pandya scored 67 off the last four overs. In the 26 innings that have been held so far (before Friday's encounter), nine teams have managed to score 50 or more in the last 24 balls. To further paint a picture, teams who have won this mini four over battle have come out on top more often: 10 of the 13 ties have been won by sides who managed to score more in that time period.

SRH's young guns rise to occasion, make CSK toil

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

THE words *Yatra Pratibha Avsara Prapnotihi* (Where talent meets opportunity) inscribed on the IPL Trophy are meant for days like these. Two unheralded young players, a 19-year-old Priyam Garg from Meerut and a 20-year-old from Amritsar were unknown names before Friday. But then, you find rags to riches story, underdogs becoming topdogs in IPL. A cameo here and there will put you in the limelight. Before you realise, you will be trending.

Priyam Garg hit an unbeaten 51 off 26 balls | SPORTZPICS

Surnisers Hyderabad's Garg and Sharma found what that was against Chennai Super Kings. When Hyderabad won the toss and chose to bat first at Dubai, they were realistically looking at a par total of 165-180 to give their four-prone attack to defend. Their hopes rested on the likes of David Warner, Jonny Bairstow, Kane Williamson and Manish Pandey.

When Chennai had them all removed by the 11th over, they believed they had the match in their pocket. Restrict them below 150, they had a fair chance of overhauling the target. However, Garg and Sharma had other plans. The duo put on 77-runs in seven over as Hyderabad posted 164/5 And in the end, it proved enough as Chennai once again found it difficult to get any momentum in their chase. Dhoni and Ravindra Jadeja waged a battle, putting together 72 runs for the fifth wicket. **Brief scores: SRH 164/5 in 20 ovs** (Garg 51 n.o, Sharma 31; Chahar 2/31) beat **CSK 157/5 in 20 ovs** (Jadeja 50, Dhoni 47 n.o).

Cottrell vows to improve

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai

MANY experts have questioned King's XI Punjab captain KL Rahul's move to make K Gowtham bowl the last over against Mumbai Indians on Thursday.

One expected in-form Sheldon Cottrell to bowl, but that was not to be. Gowtham gave away 25 runs and this was one of the reasons that helped Rohit Sharma-led side to post an imposing target. But the fast bowler from the West Indies defended Rahul. "Honestly, I back my skipper (KL Rahul) 110%. Whatever his decision is, I'm going to back it. It was a decision he felt was best for the team. It didn't work today (Thursday), unfortunately, but on another day I'm sure it will work," Cottrell said after the match.

Punjab's death bowling has been a matter of concern. "I have been working hard on death bowling, and so have my bowling partners. We're getting there and we've been learning from our mistakes and practising it on the training grounds. I'm sure we're going to pull it off very soon," explained the left-arm pacer.

The 31-year-old bowled brilliantly against Mumbai despite being thrashed by Rahul Tewatia in Sharjah. Against Mumbai, he gave 20 runs in his four overs and also got the wicket of Quinton de Kock. "My confidence was always there. But I wish my bowling effort could have helped Kings XI cross the line."

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Dominic Thiem hits a return against Casper Ruud on Friday | AFP

Halep, Thiem on song; Nadal bullish in Paris

AFP @ Paris

5 Thiem advanced to the fourth round for the fifth consecutive time.

16 Halep is riding a career-best 16-match winning streak.

Select results (Rd 3)

Men: Thiem (AUT x3) bt Ruud (NOR x28) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; **Women:** Halep (ROU x1) bt Anisimova (USA x25) 6-0, 6-1; Svitolina (UKR x3) bt Alexandrova (RUS x27) 6-4, 7-5; Podoroska (ARG) bt Schmiedlova (SVK) 6-3, 6-2.

TOP seed Simona Halep and US Open winner Dominic Thiem swept into the last 16 at Roland Garros on Friday.

Title favourite Halep, the 2018 champion, avenged last year's French Open loss to Amanda Anisimova by thrashing the American teenager 6-0, 6-1 in just 54 minutes.

Reigning Wimbledon champion Halep made only seven unforced errors as she stretched her career-best winning run to 17 matches.

Halep meets another 19-year-old opponent, Poland's Iga Swiatek, for a place in the quarterfinals. She dropped just one game when the pair met here in the last 16 a year ago.

"I played against her before," said Halep. "She's hitting strong and flat. I have to stay focussed on myself. I really want to win again."

Halep's status as the women's frontrunner was reinforced following the withdrawal of Serena Williams, on top of the absence of World No 1 and defending champion Ashleigh Barty, as well as US Open winner Naomi Osaka.

Meanwhile Thiem, the runner-up to Rafael Nadal in Paris the past two years, broke down early resistance from Norway's Casper Ruud to secure an impressive 6-4, 6-3, 6-1 victory. Two-time quarterfinalist Elina Svitolina recorded a 6-4, 7-5 win over Russia's Ekaterina Alexandrova. Rafael Nadal charged into the last 16 with a 6-1, 6-4, 6-0 win over Italian Stefano Travaglia.

World 239 stuns Stan

French wildcard Hugo Gaston, ranked at 239 in the world, defeated 2015 champion Stan Wawrinka in five sets to reach the last 16. Gaston won the rain-interrupted tie 2-6, 6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 6-0. The 20-year-old, the only home player still standing, will face Thiem.

FOOTBALL

LENO THE HERO AS ARSENAL PIP LIVERPOOL

London: MIKEL Arteta praised Arsenal goalkeeper Bernd Leno for repaying his faith after the German's two penalty saves clinched a 5-4 shoot-out win over Liverpool that sent the Gunners into the League Cup quarterfinals. Arteta's side had already beaten Liverpool on penalties in the Community Shield earlier this season and they repeated the trick in the fourth round tie. Joe Willock scored the winning penalty after Leno saved from Divock Origi and Harry Wilson. Adrian kept out Arsenal's third spot-kick from Mohamed Elneny, but Alexandre Lacazette, Cedric Soares, Ainsley Maitland-Niles and Nicolas Pepe all netted before Willock set up a last eight clash with Manchester City. AFP

Treading on unchartered territory: Ghosal

SRINIDHI PR @ Chennai

AFTER more than seven months, India's leading squash players Joshna Chinappa and Saurav Ghosal will be in action at the CIB Egyptian Open which will commence on October 10 in Cairo. Following that, Ghosal is likely to take part in Qatar Classic next month.

While Ghosal reached Dubai on September 30, the women's World No 10 reached on Friday. Both will leave for Cairo on October 7. Though the Professional Squash Association (PSA) resumed the season with the Manchester Open last month, the Indian duo decided to give it a miss. As far as protocols are concerned, players won't have to undergo any quarantine period in Cairo, Egypt. They will have to take four Covid-19 tests overall — one while leaving India, one after landing in Dubai, the third on October 7 and the fourth will be taken in Cairo on October 8. After clearing all the tests, they will be eligible to play. Once the event begins, they will be tested every two days.

"It's the first tournament in a long time for us. It's good to get back to squash. At the end of the day, that's what we train for," Ghosal told this daily from Dubai. "Things are a bit tedious. This is our new normal and we have to get used to it."

Under normal circumstances, players aim to win or reach a certain stage of a meet. However, the pandemic has posed different challenges and has altered targets as the sporting world is limping back to normalcy. For the World No 13, it is about adapting to the new normal. "Our target is always to do well and win matches. But it's different at the moment. More than winning, it's about how quickly we can adapt to the conditions. We are treading in unknown territory," added Ghosal.

The Egyptian Open will conclude on October 17 with the next PSA meet on the calendar being Qatar Classic (for men). It's scheduled for November 1 to 7 in Doha. Ghosal will fly directly to Doha from Cairo once his participation is confirmed. "I'm waiting for the entries to be out for Qatar but I will surely play. Coming back to India after the Egyptian Open is ruled out since I need to serve 14-day quarantine at home," he said.

Ghosal will meet Tom Richards of UK or Auguste Dussourd of France in the second round of Egyptian Open on October 11 after receiving a bye. Joshna will face either Scotland's Lisa Aitken or Nada Abbas of Egypt.

STATE BANK OF INDIA

STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH(SARB), BENGALURU

Authorised Officer's Details:
Name: Shri. Pranava A,
Mobile No: +91 9449205256
Landline No.(office):080-25943663/3664
Email: sbi.05173@sbi.co.in

3rd Floor, Building No. 11/90,
Near Old Shivaji Theatre
J C Road, Bengaluru - 560002
Tel: 25943663, 25943664
Email: sbi.05173@sbi.co.in
Contact : CCO – Sri.Prem Kumar.
Mob.No.9108917324

Appendix – IV-A
[See Proviso to rule 8(6)]
Sale notice for sale of immovable property

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Property under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower, that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured creditor, physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on **21.10.2020** for recovery of **Rs.1,75,27,287/-** (Rupees One Crore Seventy Five Lakhs Twenty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Seven only) as on 26.09.2020 + interest + expenses and costs, due to State Bank of India, Secured creditor from **Shri. Balaji Pattabhiram Singh** S/o Muni Balaji Singh (Borrower).
The reserve price, earnest money deposit bid increment amount and last date for receipt of EMD will be as under:-

Property No.	Reserve Price (below which the properties will not be sold)	Earnest Money Deposit	Bid increment amount	Last date for receipt of EMD
1.	Rs.1,71,00,000/-	Rs.17,10,000/-	Rs.2,00,000/-	19.10.2020

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Tender No: SBI/SARB/EA/PK/596:
Property No. 1 – (Title deed holder: Shri. Balaji Pattabhiram Singh)

Schedule 'A' for Residential Buildings: All that Property measuring 36,163.87 sq meters forming portion of vacant land bearing municipal nos. 26 and 26/1, New No. 26/1, situated in Industrial Suburb, "A" Block, Subramanyanagar, Municipal Ward No. 9, Rajajinagar Extension (Malleswaram West), Bengaluru and bounded on East by: Railway parallel Road – Yeshwanthpur Railway Line, West by: Dr. Rajkumar Road and remainin/g portion of Larger property, North by: Remaining portion of larger property and South by: Vivekananda College and private properties.

Schedule 'B' Property - (Undivided Interest) :164/220213th undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership (which comes to 288 sq.ft of land share).

Schedule 'C' Property - (Apartment) : All that piece and parcel of residential Apartment bearing No. **H-1108,** property identification No. 9-1-26/1-133/61 in 11th Floor of **"H-Wing-Phoenix** in "**Brigade Gateway**", built in the Schedule 'A' property and measuring 1360 squre feet of built up area, 280 sq. ft., of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and all other areas of common use and totally measuring 1640 sq.ft of super built up area with one top covered car parking area in slot no. 1725 in H Block Lower Basement and the apartment bounded by East by: Open towards Open Space in H-Wing-Phoenix in Brigade Gateway, West by: Lobby in 11th Floor in H-Wing-Phoenix in Brigade Gateway, North by: Apartment No. H-1107 in 11th Floor in H-Wing-Phoenix in Brigade Gateway and South by: Open towards open space in H-Wing Phoenix, in Brigade Gateway

To the best of knowledge of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on any of the above said property. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in www.sbi.co.in i.e., https://bankeauctions.com .

Date: 03.10.2020
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
State Bank of India, SARB Bengaluru

STATE BANK OF INDIA

Retail Assets Central Processing Centre-1,
13/1, Bull Temple Road, Opp. Ramakrishna Ashram,Basavanagudi,
Bengaluru-560004, Ph No.080-25943338, 25943336 & 25943337
Fax:080- 25943367-25943147, E-mail id- mgrracpc.zoban@sbi.co.in

DEMAND NOTICE

(UNDER SUB SECTION (2) OF SECTION 13 OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS & ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (HEREINAFTER CALLED ACT)

At your request, State Bank of India has extended credit facility to **Shri. Gowtham S.,** S/o. Sreerama Ananda and **Smt. Vardhini** W/o. S Gowtham (Borrowers) through its **Jayanagar Branch, Bengaluru,** various credit facility by way of financial assistance against various assets creating security interest in favour of the bank. The relevant particulars of the said credit facilities and the security agreement / documents executed by the borrower are furnished in the demand notice dated **13.02.2020.** The said financial assistance is also secured by way of deposit of title deeds creating security interest in favour of the Bank. The relevant particular of the secured asset is specifically furnished hereunder. As the operation and conduct of the financial assistance/ credit facility has become irregular, the debt has been classified as Non Performing Asset on **11.02.2020** in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India consequent to the default committed by the borrower in repayment of the principal debt and interest thereon. As the demand notice Dated **13.02.2020** sent by register AD calling upon you, was unserved/not acknowledged by you, this notice is now issued.

A/c No. : HTL:37957392676/20633/185

Name and address of the Borrower: **(i) Shri. Gowtham S.** S/o. Sreerama Ananda **(ii) Smt. Vardhini** W/o. S Gowtham, No. B-11, Sreenilaya Apartment, 6th Cross, Thulasi Theatre Road, Marathahalli, Bengaluru 560 037. **Also at: i.** Flat No. 319, 3rd Floor,SaiTeja Serein Apartment,Alfa Garden, Ayyappanagar, Kodigehalli Village, K R Puram, Bengaluru 560 036.**ii.** Vishnu Towers,Lavanya Apartment,Backside Road, Royal Nagar, Tuda Plot,RCR, Tirupathi – 517501.**iii.** COIT Technologies,Manyatha Tech Park,Nagavara,Bengaluru 560 045.

Outstanding Loan Amount: Rs.25,26,734/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs Twenty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Four only) as on 11.02.2020plus interest at contractual rate together with incidental expenses, costs, charges, etc.

Schedule of Property Mortgaged: All that piece and parcel of Flat bearing No. 319, standing in the joint names of Shri. Gowtham S and Smt. Vardhini M, the flat in the 3rd Floor, measuring 1010 sq feet super built up area, containing 2 bed rooms, along with one car parking space together with RCC Roofing, Vitrified Floor, including proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, staircase etc., in the multistoried residential building known as "SaiTeja Serein" with 352 sq feet undivided rights, title and interest in the immovable property bearing Site No. A-14, Site No. A-15, Site No. B-16, Site No. B-17 and Site No. B-40, amalgamated common Present BBMP Katha No. 13, New No. 13, Site No. B-40/41, A-14/41, B-16/41, A-15/41, B-17/41, totally measuring 27522 sq feet, situated at Kodigehalli Village, K R PuramHobli, earlier Bengaluru South Taluk, presently Bengaluru East Taluk, presently under the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP Bengaluru and bounded on East by: Private Property & Site No. B-41, West by: Road & Site No. A-13, B-18 & B-39, North by: Private Property and South by: Site No. B-41 and Road.

If you fail to repay the aforesaid sum with interest and incidental expenses within 60 days from the date of this notice, Bank shall exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub section (4) of the section 13 of the SARFAESI Act. You are also put on notice that in terms of sub section 13 of section 13, you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed above without obtaining written consent of the Bank. This notice is without prejudice to the Banks rights to initiate such other action or legal proceedings as it deem necessary under any other applicable provisions of law.
Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act whereunder you can tender the entire amount of outstanding dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank only till the date of publication of the notice for sale of the secured asset(s) by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty. Please also note that if the entire amount of outstanding dues together with the costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is not tendered before publication of notice for sale of the secured assets by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty, you may not be entitled to redeem the secured asset(s).

Date : 01.10.2020
Place: Bengaluru

AUTHORISED OFFICER
STATE BANK OF INDIA,
RACPC-1, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru

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NEW UTTARAHALLI — Main Road, Near HDFC Bank, Ph: 49587474 / 49537575
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NEW HEBBAGODI — Attibeli Hobli, Near Church, Opp. Biacon. Ph: 27849941 9731307257
NEW HEGGANAHALLI — Peenya 2nd Stage, Vishwaneedum PO, Main Road. Ph: 9591997257, 080-28366565 / 66
PEENYA T-DASARAHALLI — Santosh Enclave, Land Mark Old Reliance Bldg. Ph: 9731306684, 080-28393199 / 28394199
NEW MAHADEVPURA — Whitefield Main Road, Next to Brand Factory Close to Phoenix Marketcity, Ph : 080-48148975, 9148151731
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MARATHALLI — Opp. Park Plaza. Ph: 9731306703, 080-40980514 / 15
SARJAPUR — Kaikondanahalli, Main Road. Ph: 9731306604 080-42038986 / 87
MATHIKERE — Bombay Dyeing Rd. Ph: 080-40974968 9731306642
HSR LAYOUT — 1st Sector, Dia. Opp. to ICICI Bank. Ph: 9731306550
BANASHANKARI — Opp. to Big Bazar. Ph: 9731307254, 080-26691262/63
JAYANAGAR — 40th Cross, 9th Main, Ph: 8861007298, 080-26541050/51
CHANDRA LAYOUT — Near Water Tank. Ph: 9731306560, 9731306558
NAGARBHAVI — 6th Block, 2nd Stage, Opp. BDA Complex. Ph: 9731306616
CHANNASANDRA — Uttarahalli Main Road, Near RNSIT. Ph: 28613065 9731306766
THANISANDRA — King Space Meadows Apt., Nr. Railway Track Under Pass. Ph: 9731306763, 32521747
SUNKADAKATTE — Janapriya Commercial Complex, Magadi Road. Ph: 9686680764
RAJAJINAGAR — Opp. Diacon Hospital. Ph: 9731306572, 080-23134692
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SATURDAY

City hotels are luring guests with special in-suite offers that allow one to watch IPL matches from the safety of their room, with a side of complimentary beer, bats and balls as part of decor, fun bowling games with discounts and more

MATCH POINT

● Vidya Iyengar

It's been a lacklustre year for entertainment with Covid-19 looming large. But the hospitality and tourism industry is slowly bouncing back, by finding a new glimmer of hope in the IPL matches. With rooms having remained largely unoccupied, city hotels now have special in-suite offers for cricket lovers.

The league has been seen as one of the biggest sporting events of this year so far and brands in the hospitality and F&B sector have a lot riding on it, points out Wajeed Bagwan, GM of Oakwood Premier Prestige. "Everybody is looking for a change of scene whether it is to work or watch the match, so we are hoping this will bring in a ray of hope to the industry," he says. Agrees Ashok Sivashankar, Director of Rooms, Sheraton Grand Bangalore Hotel at Brigade Gateway. "Packages to enjoy the experience in our rooms/suites will help in increasing room revenues as well," he says.

On offer at Oakwood is a beer bucket in the room, little bites during the match, dinner and breakfast the next day and a leisure checkout option of 3pm, all to give guests a short vacation from WFH drudgery. Prices range from ₹7k to ₹14.5k. "We are getting more queries for the dates of the semi-final and final day matches," he says.

At Oakwood Premier Prestige, guests can check-in to watch IPL matches, giving the feel of a short vacation ● **Meghana Sastry**

> **Everybody is looking for a change of scene whether it is to work or watch the match, so we are hoping this will bring in a ray of hope to the industry**
>
> **—Wajeed Bagwan,** GM, Oakwood Premier Prestige

Offering picturesque views of the Ulsoor Lake from all 285 suites at Conrad Bengaluru, the IPL stay package titled 'Game with a view' includes unlimited drinks. "We have seen a gradual increase in footfalls. Guests enjoy the game and room service in their rooms in packages that start at ₹9,000++," says Jagadish Kothandaraman, director, F&B. Fun games include 'Bowled Out', where guests can bowl a ball and if it hits the centre, they could score a complimentary appetiser; 'Predict and Win' has cash vouchers for the right innings/full match score guessed.

Many are even willing to drive to far-off locations to catch the game. Ankita Sheth, co-founder Vista Rooms, which is in locations across the city, has found that 35 per cent who make a booking enquire about watching IPL. "The queries are about safety measures; amenities like kitchen setup, Netflix, Prime, and other OTT platforms; power back up, internet connection, and local landscapes," she adds. Prices range from ₹18,000 to ₹1 lakh, depending on amenities, like an infinity pool, provision for bonfire, pet-friendly properties, etc. "Each villa will have at least one room that is not available for booking. So if any guest gets sick, he/she can use this room to self-quarantine," she says.

A 'Hygiene Manager' regularly inspects cleaning and disinfection of JW Marriott Hotel Bengaluru, where they are running 'Cricket Fever with Marriott'. This package will add glimmer to the business, says director of Sales and Marketing, Mohammad Shoib.

At Renaissance Bengaluru Race Course Hotel, a ball and bat have been placed in suites to keep match spirit high. Cricket Fever with The Ritz-Carlton, Bangalore is offering a stay in a deluxe room, inclusive of breakfast, complimentary beer bucket, starters and a free upgrade to a suite, based on availability.

INSIDE

A FULL PLATE OF NEW VENTURES P3

ON A HOPEFUL NOTE P3

ACTOR ABHISHEK AMBAREESH'S BIRTHDAY P4

CITY READ

Bank inaugurates 'Baroda Kisan Pakhwada'

Bank of Baroda recently inaugurated the third edition of 'Baroda Kisan Pakhwada', which is being organised till October 16. This event is earmarked to appreciate the spirit of the farming community for their contribution towards sustaining the country's economy during the Covid-19 pandemic. It is a pan-India initiative to encourage farmers to get connected with the services offered by the Central government and the bank. Starting this year, Baroda Bank will include promotion of new schemes under the Central government's Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

'Bollywood is undefendable, there's exploitation, politics'

● Monika Monalisa

Whether it's KC from *Shaitan*, Bhavani from *Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela* or Mandar Ponkshe from *Hunterrr*, actor Gulshan Devaiah has given some remarkable performances in Bollywood, which he feels fortunate to be a part of. Among the versatile characters he played for the big screen, what remains common is his love for acting.

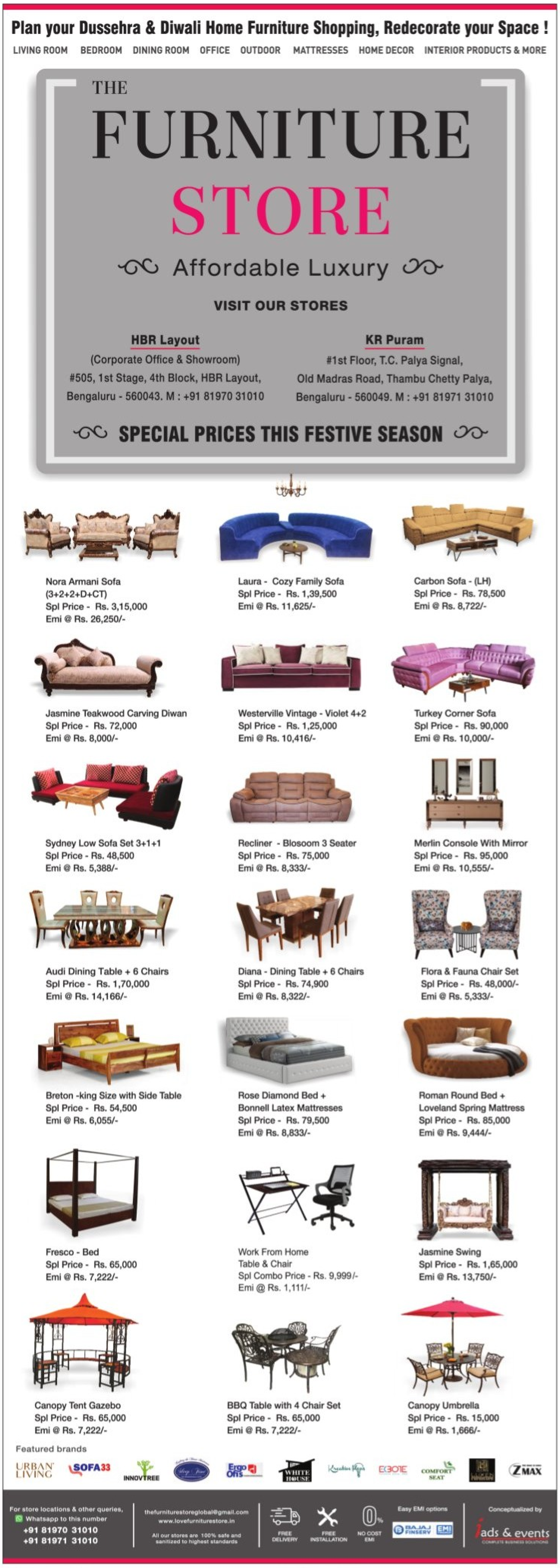
Devaiah will be going live on 'Let's Talk Art!, speaking about theatre, from Bangalore Little Theatre's social media pages on Saturday. Ahead of which, he told CE that his like for keeping it stress-free when he approaches a role. "I think most actors like to shine in a given scene and there comes the pressure. Personally, I don't like acting under pressure. However, I used to give into it in my early days, not because I had a bad understanding of the craft but because I was inexperienced in the field. When you work in a couple of projects, the ease sets in," says Devaiah, adding that he feels the more composed he is, the better he can focus on his role's preparation.

Giving a sneak-peek into the Bollywood industry, he mentions that it become difficult to maintain the humility that they pose in the beginning of their career. "People get used to being treated in a certain way on sets. There is a hierarchical culture that the industry has cultivated. I have heard that it's even more in television, though I have zero experience about it, though I have been on the sets. For example, directors would get their feet touched," reveals Devaiah. He adds that it's important for actors to be conscious that it's not real.

Gulshan Devaiah

The starry world of Bollywood, which is a dream industry to work in for many people has suddenly gained limelight for the wrong reasons – camps and narcotics. Devaiah does not want to defend the things that are true, he says, adding, "In many aspects, Bollywood is undefendable. There is exploitation, there is a lot of favouritism and politics. There is uncertainty too. Merit can't exist here. Many come here expecting it since they work hard, and when they don't get it, it creates friction. That's why we are in this situation now," says Devaiah, adding that he is trying not to get emotional about the situation, and is trying to look at the situation from a distance to understand it better.

Though this year has seen many unexpected turns of events in the entertainment industry, it was supposed to be one of the busiest years for Devaiah, with three films and series in his list. Unfortunately, two of them have been postponed. But he has no complaints, and is looking forward to his mystery drama, *Footfairy*, which is going to be premiered on &tv, on October 23. While he is a known face in Bollywood, he is yet to do any project in the Kannada film industry, and hopes to break that jinx soon. "Rishab Shetty's movies are mainstream but content-based, not hero-based. He seems to be interesting and I like the way he thinks. Cinematic expression is important to him," signs off Devaiah.



QUICK FIX

What's cooking IN YOUR KITCHEN?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

RAW CUSTARD APPLE BIRYANI

INGREDIENTS

- **Custard apple, deseeded:** 100 g
- **Basmati rice:** 100 g
- **Bay leaf:** 2
- **Cardamom:** 2
- **Cloves:** 2
- **Cinnamon:** 1 inch
- **Ginger-garlic paste:** 1 tsp
- **Turmeric:** 1/4 tsp
- **Garam masala:** 1/2 tsp
- **Green chillies:** 2
- **Oil:** 2 tsp
- **Onion:** 1, chopped
- **Mint and curry leaves:** a few
- **Lemon juice:** 1/2 tsp
- **Salt** to taste

METHOD

- Soak rice for 30 minutes.
- In a pressure cooker, add 2 tbsp of oil and all spices.
- Then add onion and chillies. Stir on medium heat.
- Add ginger-garlic paste and saute for two minutes.
- Then add custard apple and turmeric powder. Cook for three minutes.
- Add garam masala, mint, curry leaves, salt, 150 ml water and rice. Pressure-cook for three whistles.
- Add lemon juice, a bit of jaggery and ghee for taste before serving.

— Sundari Ghandhi, Chennai

NATURE TALK

WHAT IS A BIOINDICATOR?

- Living organisms whose presence or absence in the ecosystem speak about its health, and changes occurring in it.
- Among bioindicators, damselflies are known to be extremely sensitive to water quality.
- In Chennai, the Blue Damsels (Pseudagrion species) are becoming increasingly rare to come by, thereby indicating the rise in water pollution.
- They live in lakes, ponds and other standing bodies of water.
- Where they are seen, water is clear, clean and thriving with life.
- The decline of these slender grass-sitters, the absence of their bright hover is a cause for concern, denoting falling water health.
- What bioindicators do you see around you? Damselflies, tadpoles, lichen, whirligig beetles etc ? What do they speak on behalf of their habitat?

— M Yuvan

BRIGHT SPOT

SHIFTING GEARS

After 20 years of working as a house help, Anusuya Amma from Bengaluru was forced to start a new venture because of the pandemic. Fondly called Ansu Amma, she was working at seven households. Most of them dismissed her when the lockdown came into place. Her husband, a driver, also suffered a similar fate. She then decided to venture into her own business, and set up a bajji-bonda stall. She found an abandoned cart and sought the necessary permits and approvals from the authorities. But to start any business, you need money. She decided to seek a loan from the households she worked in. They gave her `10,000. With that as a start, the 50-year-old collected another `25,000 from various sources and bought the necessary equipment, a smartphone for online payments and the raw material. She is determined to repay her loan amount by continuing to work in the rest of the households and sell snacks in the evening.

Source: The Better India

APPSMART

Baby Monitor 3G

This is a universal video and audio nanny on your device. Hear every noise, stream live video through a camera, watch and soothe your child remotely .

Available on: Android

AstroTalk

Astrotalk has over 500 astrologers of India on board to help users with their problems in love, relationship, and marriage-related woes and problems.

Available on: Android

Buddhify

Buddhify is here to help you bring more calm, clarity and kindness to all parts of your life, especially in these trying times.

Available on: Android

FIT BIT

MAYURASANA
(PEACOCK POSE)

In Sanskrit, 'mayura' means 'peacock', and 'asana' means 'pose'. It is an advanced arm balancing asana that tones and detoxifies the body, and promotes mental health. It strengthens the arms, tones abdominal organs, improves digestion, boosts energy and is an excellent detoxifier. It promotes a sense of calm, improves focus and alleviates depression. It activates the Manipura (solar plexus) chakra, which governs vitality, balance and strength. It is associated with self-esteem, willpower and spiritual ascent. Practising this asana also arouses kundalini, encouraging it to move through the body.

STEPS

- Kneel down on the mat and make sure that your legs are wide enough for you to sit on your heels.
- Place your hands flat on the floor with your fingertips facing towards your body. Press your palms into the floor.
- Now, bend your elbows to a right angle. Rest the front torso on the upper arms, and sides of the navel on the elbows.
- Push your stomach down onto your elbows and lower your forehead to the floor.
- Straighten your knee, stretch both legs behind you.
- Lift your head off the floor.
- Now, raise your whole body, balancing the abdomen on the elbows. Place the weight entirely on your palms.
- You can breathe evenly for three or five breaths, or about 10 seconds. As you practise, you can gradually increase this time up to 50 seconds.
- To come out from this pose, slowly lower your head and feet to the floor, bend your knees, and lift your torso off your arms.
- Rest in child pose or downward facing dog pose.

BENEFITS

- Provides an additional challenge for detoxifying the body.
- A natural cure for diabetes. Helps improve posture.
- Alleviates constipation.
- Tones abdominal muscles and strengthens spleen, gall bladder, liver and kidneys.
- Helps get rid of tumours and fevers. Improves blood circulation.
- Improves concentration and boosts immunity.
- Also improves sexual activity.
- Tones the digestive system.
- Calms mind and reduces stress.
- Helps make the wrist, shoulders, elbows, and spine stronger.

LIMITATIONS

- Not recommended for those who have hypertension, cardiac ailments and hernias.
- Women in the premenopausal phase or during menopause must avoid this. Those with backache must avoid.

— by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

SOUND BOARD

GITA FOR THE YOUNG AND RESTLESS

In each episode, host Jaya Row examines an aspect of our modern lives through the learnings from our ancient scriptures, to provide ageless answers to our most contemporary dilemmas.

- On Spotify

NOT OVERTHINKING

Hosts Ali and Taimur Abdaal, occasionally joined by guests, talk about things to help us think, do, and be better. They cover areas such as social interaction, lifestyle design, mental models in an interesting and fun podcast.

- On Spotify

DARKNESS RADIO

Dave and Tim take listeners on an entertaining journey into all aspects of the supernatural, from ghosts and aliens, to monsters, mysteries, myths and legends with guest experts, experiencers and eye witnesses.

- On Apple Podcasts

THE REAL LIFE PODCAST

Jeff and Alyssa are a married couple with two toddlers running around their home talking about faith, culture, and take listener's questions with a little dash of random sprinkled in.

- On Apple Podcasts

HIDDEN BRAIN

Shankar Vedantam uses science and storytelling to reveal the unconscious patterns that drive human behavior, shape our choices and direct our relationships.

- On Google Podcast

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

MUMBAI EXPRESS

Talked by his friend into kidnapping a wealthy family's young son, a stuntman soon finds himself in over his head. They kidnap the wrong boy. The child's parents, meanwhile, are going through tough times.

- Cast: Kamal Haasan, Manisha Koirala, Ramesh Aravind, Vijay Raaz

VASANTHA MALIGAI

A woman must overcome a wealthy alcoholic's wicked family as she tries to help him turn his life around.

- Cast: Sivaji Ganesan, Pandari Bai, Srikanth

MAHANADI

Krishnaswamy, an honest man, is conned into a chit fund business and imprisoned. While he faces unspeakable hardships in prison, his family disintegrates.

- Cast: Kamal Haasan, Sukanya, Poornam Vishwanathan, Lakshmi

KULAMA GUNAMA

After years of marriage, Seetha gives birth to a healthy child. However, her life changes forever when she decides to give away her baby to Lalitha, who delivers a stillborn child.

- Cast: Sivaji Ganesan, Padmini, Vanisri, Nagesh

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAITS THAT SHAPE YOUR POLITICAL BELIEFS BY DANNAGAL G. YOUNG

Social psychologist Dannagal G. Young breaks down the link between our psychology and politics, showing how personality types largely fall into people who prioritise openness and flexibility (liberals) and those who prefer order and certainty (conservatives). Hear why both sets of traits are crucial to any society — and how our differences are being dangerously exploited to divide us.

2 MAKING SENSE OF A VISIBLE QUANTUM OBJECT BY AARON O'CONNELL

In a breakthrough experiment, Aaron O'Connell created an object, visible to the unaided eye, but probably in two places at the same time. He suggests an intriguing way of thinking about the result.

3 THE NEUROSCIENCE OF IMAGINATION BY ANDREY VYSHEDSKIY

Imagine a duck teaching a French class. A ping-pong match around a black hole. A dolphin balancing a pineapple. You haven't actually seen any of these things. But you could imagine them instantly. How does your brain produce an image of something you've never seen? Andrey Vyshedskiy details the neuroscience of imagination.

4 CAN YOU SOLVE YOUR PENNILESS PILGRIM RIDDLE? BY DANIEL FINKEL

After months of travel, you've arrived at Duonia, home to the famous temple that's the destination of your pilgrimage. Can you outsmart the city's imposed tax and make it to the temple without paying a fee? Dan Finkel shows how.

5 HOW TO MANAGE FOR COLLECTIVE CREATIVITY BY LINDA HILL

What's the secret to unlocking the creativity hidden inside your daily work, and giving every great idea a chance? Harvard professor Linda Hill, co-author of "Collective Genius," has studied some of the world's most creative companies to come up with a set of tools and tactics to keep great ideas flowing.

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

KATHANAM (Kannada)

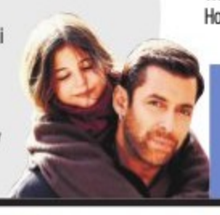
Anu, an aspiring director is given a chance to write a script for a movie. As she pens her script, the characters referenced in it start to die in real life, as per her narrative. Anu approaches ACP Randhir to stop further deaths. The dark truths revealed in the investigation make up the rest of the story of the movie

- Cast: Anasuya Bharadwaj, Randhir
- Watch on: Amazon prime
- Registration: ₹129 per month

BAJRANGI BHAIJAAN (Hindi)

Pawan, a devotee of Lord Hanuman, finds a girl, who is speech impaired, lost in Haryana. He soon learns that she belongs to Pakistan and sets out to reunite her with her family at great personal cost.

- Cast: Salman Khan, Harshaali Malhotra, Nawazuddin Siddiqui
- Watch on: Hotstar+Disney



BIRBAL TRILOGY (Kannada)

A man who is wrongly accused of murder is helped by an advocate, facing various threats during the investigation.

- Cast: Amoghavarsha, Aruna Balraj, Pruthvi Banawasi
- Watch on: Amazon Prime

AADHALAL KADHAL SEIVEER (Tamil)

During an overnight trip, two college friends, Karthik and Shwetha, get intimate. Soon, Shwetha finds out that she is pregnant and the couple struggle as they try to hide it from their parents.

- Cast: Manisha Yadav, Santhosh Ramesh, Poornima Bhagyaraj
- Watch on: Hotstar+Disney

AARANYA KAANDAM (Tamil)

Singaperumal still feels mighty though he has turned older. However, when he tries to beat his arch-enemy Gajendran with a perfect plan, a series of incidents lead to a dog-eat-dog situation.

- Cast: Ravi Krishna, Jackie Shroff, Sampath Raj, Yasmin Ponnappa
- Watch on: Hotstar +Disney

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

MY NAME IS KHAN (Hindi)

Rizwan, a man with Asperger's syndrome, marries Mandira. When unfortunate events unfold after the twin tower attacks, he embarks on a journey to change people's perception of his community.

- Cast: Shahrukh Khan, Kajol, Jennifer Echols
- Watch on: Hotstar+Disney

NUVVOSTANANTE NENODDANTANA (Telugu)

Siri and Sriram fall in love with each other and plan to get married. However, his mother disapproves of their relationship.

- Cast: Siddharth, Trisha Krishnan, Srihari, Prakash Raj
- Watch on: Voot

FOREIGN

SHOW ME A HERO (English, series)

Mayor Nick Wasicsko is entrusted the responsibility of building low-income housing units in the white neighbourhoods of his town that eventually leads to conflicts and tears the city apart.

- Cast: Oscar Isaac, Catherine Keener, Alfred Molina, Natalie Paul
- Watch on: Hotstar+Disney

GIRLS (English, series)

An aspiring writer and her three friends, all in their early 20s, together try to make sense of what life has in store for them after living in New York for two years.

- Cast: Lena Dunham, Allison Williams, Adam Driver, Jemima Kirke
- Watch on: Hotstar+Disney

ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT (English, series)

The Bluth family, once a prominent name in the business, loses everything after the head patriarch gets convicted for fraud. Now Michael, the only sane one in the family, must maintain peace at home.

- Cast: Jason Bateman, Will Arnett, Alia Shawkat, Portia de Rossi
- Watch on: Hotstar+Disney

LAST WEEK TONIGHT WITH JOHN OLIVER (English, series)

The late-night series sees the British comic review what happened the past seven days in news, politics and current events, all with a heavy dose of satire, of course.

- Watch on: Hotstar+Disney

SUBSCRIPTION

DISNEY+HOTSTAR ₹ 399 per year

VOOT ₹ 99 per month

RUBINATIONS
RUBI CHAKRAVARTI

HEALING, BODY AND SOUL

Hola, fellow Bangloreans!

At the cost of sounding like a stuck DVD, I have cleared the toxins from my body, dusted the cobwebs and general 'meh' from my brain and I'm back in action. I'm talking my head off nineteen to a dozen, cooking (solely for my family and close friends), working and generally refusing to expose myself to unnecessary viral infections of the third kind!

Speaking of unnecessary exposure, I have an allergy to Godmen, new-age gurus, long-aired charlatans in diaphanous flowing robes and crotch-fitting dhotis. Somehow they all have enigmatic smiles and piercing eyes!

I remember, being cajoled by a close friend to spend a day at a 'giggling guru's' ashram. I was bored, uncomfortable and was alarmed to see perfectly intelligent and educated people behaving like members of the Mickey Mouse Club! The discourses were infantile and puerile and often managed by a wily and media savvy sister. Well good luck to the lot, the gullible public and the 'gurus'. The whole idea of this background spiel was to give you a glimpse into how one can fit a certain phrase or a word into your consciousness especially when one feels vulnerable. I heard a lengthy discourse (yes, at the insistence of the very same bestie), of a very erudite Godman who (amongst all the other drivel), said that each one of us is responsible for our own health and well-being. Not the doctors, nor other medical professionals or even medication...we were ultimately responsible for our own health and well-being through the choices we make!

Dr Susheela Suresh

During the last month, where my extended family and I went through a terrible emotional and health-wise debilitating phase, the Godman's words rang true. My sister, brother-in-law and young nephew all tested positive with the dreaded Cardi-V. The irony is that they have a sanitiser factory and operate out of their own 20 acre plot. To say that my sister is paranoid is an understatement. But maybe its corona fatigue or some small breach of protocol that exposed them to this horrendous fate. I use the word 'fate' purposely because whereas the medical community has made marvellous strides in the treatment of this virus it's the civic authorities and the ruthless 'men-in-white' (we know who they are!) who don't give a rats derriere about the fate of its citizenry; have cornered all the beds, rooms and sundry at all the hospitals. My sister (an army brat and a conscientious citizen) had the sanitising and spraying of her home, buildings and factory premises on her own accord, after getting the entire workforce tested at her expense. No one even asked, no one cares and we are left to take care of ourselves after being lulled into a false sense of security. I contracted dengue and we were all sick... to our stomach where we couldn't even help each other.

For all the vitriol one can spew on our civic and political entities, there is much to be said about our selfless medical staff. Coming from a family of doctors, I am aware of the level of frustration and risks they go through only to do their 'dharma and karma'. Two women, both doctors, mothers, daughters and wives go to work every morning in different hospitals helping, nurturing, and being invested in their patients well-being. Dr Susheela Suresh is brusque and no-nonsense and constantly up-dating herself in latest treatments. She often works 18-hour shifts which don't end when she goes home. Whereas Dr Sarojini, is kind, generous and will even send food cooked from home to patients who can't stomach hospital food. Two women committed to curing and caring, selfless and exceptional who I am proud to call friends. These two I know, but there are numerous doctors, interns' and medical staff like them.

Next time you see a shadow on your pillow, kiss it. It may be a doctor, nurse or ward boy.

BENGALURU BEATS

'ECONOMIC GROWTH DOESN'T HAVE TO COME AT COST OF ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE'

Narendra Pasuparthy
CEO and founder, Nandu's

Nothing is more distressing than witnessing the decline of something you love. Famed as the garden city, Bengaluru was a home like no other – the beauty and serenity of this place was truly unparalleled. Sadly, over the years, the garbage menace has made the city simply unrecognisable.

As one of the pioneers of the poultry farming industry in India, we can tell that economic growth doesn't have to come at the cost of irreparable ecological damage. In no way does Bengaluru's development demand makeshift ways of managing waste. What the city needs is sustainable waste management practices. We have witnessed the paybacks of keeping our environmental footprint almost negligible. Adopting strategic solutions for dealing with the waste generated in our modern processing plant has been a sound business decision.

Firstly, we do not process chicken in our retail shops, but only at our processing plant. At the plant, we have invested in an effluent water treatment process to ensure that all the water used through the day can be recycled for agricultural purposes later. Secondly, the solid waste that is generated at our processing plant is upscaled to produce fodder for our poultry farm by a third-party company that manufactures high-quality, poultry-protein meal.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been an eye-opener in many ways - particularly, in terms of reinstating the importance of hygiene, health and safety in our daily lives. Now is the time to address the ubiquitous problem that has been plaguing Bengaluru for a very long time. Let's stop dumping wastes irresponsibly. Let's commit to developing Bengaluru into an eco-friendly city. The garden city.

Solution: There is no excuse for meat businesses or players in other industries to dump their waste in the landfills, waterbeds, or any parts of the city that ultimately block the sewage system. As a society, we need to be more responsible and prudent in our approach towards waste management. These pollutants pose major groundwater quality risks as well as serious health hazards not just for us, but also for future generations. Is this the legacy we wish to leave behind?

Let your mixed feelings about Bengaluru get stirred up, as an influential person talks about things nice and nasty about the city in this weekly column

Currently working on his new book, a compilation of 'must-have' recipes, Gary Mehigan of MasterChef Australia fame will share some kitchen secrets at a workshop today

A FULL PLATE OF NEW VENTURES

Monika Monalisa

A brand new book, a new podcast... it's safe to say that Australia's most adored chef **Gary Mehigan** has got quite a lot on his plate. In good news for those who have been missing seeing Mehigan every week on the popular show-MasterChef Australia, he is conducting a session called The Baker's Workshop, on October 3, held by Conosh, an online food curating website.

Ask him what we can expect from the workshop, and he says it's going to be all about baking and lots of tips and tricks. "I have been baking a lot during the lockdown, so I will be sharing my tried and tested sourdough and starter recipe and a decadent French classic called Apple Tarte Tatin with a simple eggless caramel ice-cream," says Mehigan, which he guarantees will, possibly, be the best apple pie one has ever tasted.

Mehigan is currently working on the new book, which is a compilation of 'must-have' recipes, everything from the perfect chocolate cake, homemade cheese and bread to some of his favourite Indian and South-East Asian dishes that he makes at home. Apart from that, he is also releasing a new podcast on 'A plate to call home' every fortnight. "It's an entirely different pace to television and allows me to have in-depth conversations with some of our very best chefs, producers and foodies," says Mehigan. He had several trips for work planned this year to India, Sri Lanka and Japan, which were put on the back burner due to the pandemic. It's hard to imagine Mehigan loving anything else more than the cooking, but his next love to food is his motorcycle. But since he can't ride in the current situation, he has been gardening. "I've planted lots of fruit trees, apple, quince, yuzu, lime and pear to name a few, and tended a growing vegetable patch. Life has been pretty good. Cooking at home has been an unexpected pleasure too," he says.

Nobody could have imagined what Masterchef Australia would be like if one of the judges from the original tri- Mehigan, George Calombaris, Matt Preston, were not a part of the show. But it came as shocker for many when their journey ended. Yet people still associate them with the show. "I think Matt, George and I will always be inextricably linked to MasterChef, it's part of our DNA and vice versa. It was time, however, to move on and I have no regrets,"adds Mehigan, who has been a frequent visitor to Bengaluru where his favourite Indian dish is biryani. "I love biryani whether it's pakki, kachi Hyderabadi, Thalassery, Andhra or Awadhi," says Mehigan, adding that making the perfect dosay is also an art.

CITY READ

Eminent musicians to perform at concert

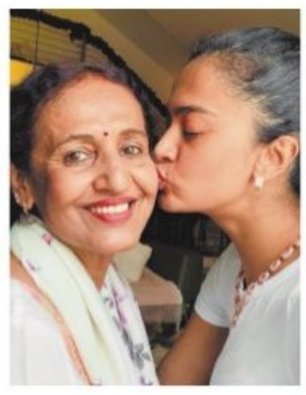
A series of digital concerts featuring eminent Indian classical musicians from Bengaluru – KALAATMA 2020 – will be celebrated till October 4. The event is curated by renowned violinist Dr Jyotsna Srikanth and produced by Dhruv Arts, an UK and India-based non-profit organisation. The musical festival aims to be a cultural congregation and bring together the artistic community amid the ongoing pandemic. The festival features 25 performers, including seniors and upcoming artistes from the city. The event is streaming on Dhruv Arts Festival's YouTube channel.

NSS observes Gandhi Jayanti

National Service Scheme and State NSS Cell organised a 'samvadha programme' on Friday, to mark 152nd birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. At the digital event, former Supreme Court judge Santhosh Hegde spoke on 'Fall in Social Values and Its Consequences'. The event was inaugurated by Bangalore University vice-chancellor Dr K R Venugopal. Justice Hegde said parents have to cultivate values and impart social education to their children. Around 500 individuals, including NSS officers, teachers and students took part in the event.

Mom's the word

Shubbra Aiyappa wrote a heartfelt message on Instagram on her mother's birthday. She said, "I am so happy that I was raised by this sweet, kind, gentle and hard-working woman whom I proudly call my MA ! ... Being your daughter is such a blast . Happy birthday my bestest friend." Aww.



Rakshit's new love

Rakshit Shetty got a new beauty in his life. No, we are not talking about any new girl, it's his brand new Red Gemini 5k camera, that we are talking about. He posted a video and some pictures of the camera on Insta, saying, "Look at the new toy... Yohoooo After Alexa SXT, Red Gemini is a second camera setup at the Studio". Do you feel the excitement? We do.

MUSIC MANTRA

On a hopeful note

Simran Ahuja

(From left) Band members Veecheet Dhakal, Siddhant Mani Chettri, Anudwatt Dhakal and Joe Panicker • Meghana Sastry

For the members of Gauley Bhai, a 1BHK space in Jeevan Bhima Nagar has served as their jam room for two years now. The space, which marked the birthplace of many of their songs, has now been revamped to double as a recording studio. Come Saturday, the band will perform their first post-Covid-19 outbreak live concert, from their jam-room-converted-studio. "This is our first live concert in six months so we're quite kicked about it," says Joe Panicker. The drummer, with other members Veecheet Dhakal (vocals, violin), Siddhant Mani Chettri (guitar) and Anudwatt Dhakal (bass guitar), forms the quartet behind the band, which sings in Nepali.

The jam room now comprises microphones, headphones, amplifiers, curtains, carpeted floors, extra panelling and sound absorbing material – all additions that were made in the last few months. "We made do with things we had lying around," explains Panicker. Back in June, the band used the space to record a set that was then played as a part of a London festival, but their upcoming concert marks their first live concert since their tour in Nepal was cut short in March. "It's a complete DIY project," says Veecheet, adding that the band has been hard at work to set up this space the last few months. "It's a trial for us too. We've even set up projectors to give the concert an audio-visual effect. And we are going to play around with lighting as well to give a stage-like feel and to add to the whole vibe," says Veecheet of the livestreamed concert. For example, the song Thupari Udi, which explores the idea of leaving one's nest and the freedom to fly, will be accompanied by visuals of hills and travels. Helping the band is Angarika Guha with conceptualisation, Sowmya Swaminathan as creative adviser, Suman Khaidem on visuals, Kiran MS and Yorker Films on camera and Chewang Tamang as the DOP.

For a band that feeds off of the energy of its audience, this experience will prove to be a new one. "It's like inviting people into our jam room. Will it be intimate or distant? Who knows, we also have to wait and see," says Veecheet, who has back back in the studio for the past 2-3 weeks, after recuperating from an accident. While the idea to convert the jam room into a recording studio has been there for a while. "It's always been an aspiration for us and now it's worked in our favour," he adds.

It's like inviting people into our jam room. Will it be intimate or distant? Who knows, we also have to wait and see

—**Veecheet Dhakal,** vocals, violin

The concert will be livestreamed on Oct 3, 8pm. Tickets (₹300) available on SkillBox

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Sathish Ninasam and Rachita Ram to headline romantic thriller, *Matinee*

CE Features

Ayogya pair Sathish Ninasam and Rachita Ram will be teaming up again for the second time. The two will headline a romantic thriller, titled *Matinee,* which marks the directorial debut of Manohar Kaampalli. The actor, and production house shared this news ahead of Rachita Ram's birthday, which falls on October 3. This will be among the slew of projects, including *April, Lilly, Veeram,* a film with S Ravidranath, falling in the actor's lap. Sathish also revealed the film's firstlook poster -- an illustration of a hero's face, inside a bucket of popcorn, represented with a rose and a gun, which well describes the title and genre. This project, bankrolled by Parvathi, will begin shooting from this month. Sathish will be juggling this film, and Vijayaprasad's *Petromax*, which will also go on floors from the second week of October in Mysuru. *Matinee* has music scored by Poorna Chandra Tejasvi while Kranthi Varla is handling the cinematography. The film's editing will be done by K M Prakash, and Nagu RK will be handling the art department.

Rachita Ram and Sathish Ninasam

'I'd never go behind a certain filmmaker to force them into making a film for me'

Abishek Ambareesh

Ahead of his birthday, Abishek Ambareesh talks to *CE* about how the lockdown gave him the much-needed time for introspection, and how he hopes his future in the film industry will pan out

A Sharadhaa

To mark Abishek Ambareesh's birthday, the makers of his next film, *Bad Manners,* are planning to release a 30-second teaser. The *Amar* actor, who turns 27 on Saturday, generally rings in his birthday by seeking the blessings of his parents. "Of course this year, I will have to make do with my mother. But I know my father's blessings will always be there for me," says Abishek. When asked about the surprise gift from the mother, a proud Abishek says, "She (Sumalatha Ambareesh) is a very busy woman, she is a Member of Parliament, and she has a lot of children to think about and not just me. I don't expect anything, but blessings from her.

In this interview with *CE,* Abishek speaks about lockdown lessons, as he is eagerly looking forward to starting shooting for Suri's upcoming directorial, *Bad Manners*.

Birthday celebrations best celebrated with fans, who are my friends

Abishek, who calls his fans as his friends, says his birthday celebration does not feel complete without them. "We are in a stage where we have been having limited public interaction and most of my friends have been very understanding. However, there is this bunch, who want to come and wish, and I couldn't say no to. We will try our best to enforce social distancing norms, and make sure to be as safe as possible," mentions Abishek, who isn't new to grand birthday celebrations. "My dad's fans have been so loving that they are celebrating my birthday from my teenage days. They did so when I was still a school going student, and even when I was still thinking to step into films. They would treat me like they would treat my father. They have given me all the love in the world. Every year it's been a norm that I spend time with them on the day of my birthday. Last year, we couldn't do it because it was my dad's first death anniversary. However, this time, despite the pandemic, we cannot refuse some of them to come. The young fan friends of mine and my dad's fans who are a bit older are coming together and they have planned my celebration. I have no idea what they are upto, but I have requested they take safety measures," he says.

Lockdown; a period of reflection and introspection

"Lockdown was a great period of reflection, and introspection for many many people and not just me," says Abishek. "It is the universe's way of saying that all of us should be mindful of our health. Moreover, it is not just physical, but mental health is also equally important. With the pandemic, the lockdown and so many issues, mental health issues are something that should be discussed and debated, and something that should be shared more with the public," he opines.

Video games is Abishek's secret addiction

Apart from acting, gaming is one other passion for Abishek. "If I have time in hand, I can sit up to 48 hours playing video games with no food, nor water. I have been like this for years, and it was one of dad's biggest complaints that I am always sitting in front of the TV. Video games are my secret addiction," says Abishek.

> **With the pandemic, the lockdown and so many issues, mental health issues are something that should be discussed and debated, and something that should be shared more with the public**
>
> —**Abishek Ambareesh,** actor

Suri is a brand of his own, and it is an opportunity for me to work with the director

Abishek, who made his debut with *Amar,* is now looking forward to starting shooting for the second project, *Bad Manners,* a film by director Suri, and bankrolled by Sudhir KM. "We are looking to start the shoot in October and will be taking a call after discussing with the team. I'm very excited to be back on the sets, and after a long gap. Of course, shooting a film around pandemic has its own challenges, and we are willing to face that," says Abishek, who is eagerly looking forward to associate with Suri, with whom he has already built a good rapport even before getting on to the sets. "After *Amar,* I was waiting for a script that would be different from the first one, in terms of both genre and presentation. As for Suri Sir, I have watched his movies, and been a fan of his direction – Be it *Duniya, Jackie, Anna Bond, Doddmane Hudga, Tagaru,* and his latest, Suri is a director, who has created his own brand. And for me, it is a great opportunity to associate with him. We met, we discussed, and I instantly expressed my desire to work with him. I also got to meet him over discussions for our project, and he came across as a lovely person," he says.

The actor also points out that he is someone who waits for opportunity to come his way. "Just because I have some good connections in the industry, I don't like to utilise in the wrong way. I'd never go behind a certain director or producer and try to force them into making a film for me. I never want to work under that pressure."

Stunt duo Ram-Lakshman to choreograph fight sequence for Puneeth in *James*

CE Features

In *James,* the film in which Puneeth Rajkumar will be headlining the project, director Chethan Kumar is making sure to get the best actions sequences in the commercial entertainer. While the team stunts are choreographed by our very own stuntmaster Ravi Varma, the team has now brought on board noted south stunt choreographer duo Ram-Lakshman. The commercial entertainer that has Chethan Kumar and Power Star for the very first time, will resume shoot from October 13, when the stunt masters join the sets. Ram-Lakshman who have predominantly worked in Tollywood are lately in demand by Kannada filmmakers too. James, bankrolled by Kishore Pathikonda, went on floors in March and completed a schedule before the lockdown. The director and team were recently on a recee across different places of Karnataka, and have finalised the locations. With Charan Raj scoring music, the team is currently in the process of finalising the cast, and are planning to bring on board some well-known artistes from Sandalwood as well as from the neighbouring states. Before joining *James,* Puneeth will wrap up Santhosh Ananddram's *Yuvarathna* with a song shoot that is currently scheduled in Goa, which will be followed with two-three days of patch work.

Ram-Lakshman

Puneeth Rajkumar

Shilajit Mitra

Perhaps no other film in recent memory has flaunted its big-screen credentials like *Khaali Peeli.* The whistles and hoots that director Maqbool Khan was going for have been largely subdued by the pandemic. There is, however, one respite: the film has released on the pay-per-view service Zee Plex, a first for a major studio film with stars. The idea of 'digital tickets' in India might take some getting used to, though I doubt *Khaali Peeli* is the smashing jump-start the programmers were hoping for.

A streetsmart cabbie rescues a distressed damsel from the seedy bylanes of Mumbai. He could be the munificent 'hero' played by Dev Anand in *Taxi Driver* (1954), except we are in present times, and our options are limited to Ishaan Khatter wheeling a Premier Padmini through the night. The 'heroine' in his backseat, Pooja (Ananya Panday), has a bag full of stolen cash and jewelry. They must escape the city by sun-up or land in jail.

Much of the first-half follows 'Blackie' (Ishaan, so named for scaling movie tickets as a child) and Pooja chalking out a plan. He has committed a 'half-murder' in a heated scuffle and pranced. She has run off on her wedding to a lecherous older man. Together, they must outstrip cops and gangsters alike, all while sorting out mutual suspicions that give way to love.

As the chase unfurls, a series of flashbacks flesh out the converging backstories. Turns out, Pooja and Blackie were childhood sweethearts, pulled apart when a pimp, Yusuf (Jaideep Ahlawat), got wind of their affection and intervened. Now, Yusuf is after Pooja, and will stop at nothing to return her to her intended destination.

The flashy, crisscrossing editing does little to make us join in on the ride. It's a bit of a stretch that all these characters would be thus reunited, but even ignoring that, there's hardly any propulsion or chemistry in the story to keep you hooked. One suspects the makers ran out of creative ways to drag out a one-night chase over an almost two-hour film, and thus settled for easy flashbacks (in contrast, Michael Mann's Collateral, arguably the greatest film in the genre, proceeds without one).

OFFSIDE
ZEE STUDIOS
MH 01 6969
This Ishaan Khatter, Ananya Panday film backs into disaster
Lafda bole toh alag level ka!!!
RATING 2/5
EK LADKA EK LADKI AUR EK MAD RIDE
KHAALI PEELI
Director: Maqbool Khan
Cast: Ishaan Khatter, Ananya Panday, Jaideep Ahlawat
Streaming on: Zee Plex

Indeed, *Khaali Peeli* is least inclined to become an engaging action-thriller. Almost the entire film is fashioned as a tribute to the splashy masala movies of old. This is done proudly but vacuously: an Agneepath reference here, a Sholay hat-tip there. Movies, or the love of them, do not alter or influence the characters' journeys in a substantial way, like they did in *Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota*. Blackie hangs a picture of young Salman Khan in his cab, but his fighting style is all over the place: from the slo-mo swerves of Tiger Shroff to the forced intensity of Shah Rukh Khan.

Jaideep Ahlawat looks like he's nursing a headache and bidding his time. Yusuf is a flatly unremarkable villain, though he does turn scary for one scene, creeping up on young kids watching a film. Ishaan, who played a desperate street kid in *Beyond The Clouds* (2017), suffers under the broad tapori lingo and mannerisms. He is still a sight better than Ananya, whose limits as a performer are getting plainer by the day.

Khaali Peeli backs into disaster. We're all better off on foot.